

Peres will not run again for premiership

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres announced Wednesday that he would not be a candidate for the premiership when Israel holds its next scheduled elections in the year 2000. "I have decided not to be a candidate in the 2000 elections, but I will remain at the head of the Labour Party until at least June 1997," he said in a televised interview. The Labour Party is scheduled to hold a party congress in June to select its prime ministerial candidate for the next elections. Mr. Peres, 73, insisted however that "I have no intention of quitting politics. I will continue within the party to fight like a bull for the peace process." Last week his ex-Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, a former army chief-of-staff, announced that he would run for the party leadership at the June party congress whether Mr. Peres ran again or not.

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Barzani meets Pelletreau amid Iraqi warning, vow to wage anti-U.S. battle

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI KURDISH leader Massoud Barzani on Wednesday met with a U.S. official to explain his new alliance with Baghdad, as Iraq vowed it would wage a political battle to thwart the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf.

Baghdad also warned Mr. Barzani against what it described as America's "evil intentions."

Mr. Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) which routed a rival faction in northern Iraq with Baghdad's backing, met U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau.

No further details of the two-hour meeting — the first Mr. Barzani has had with a U.S. official since Baghdad's troops surged into Iraqi Kurdistan at the

end of August at Mr. Barzani's request — were immediately available.

Before meeting with Mr. Pelletreau, Mr. Barzani had talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller.

Mr. Barzani's political advisor, Falakaddin Kakai, told AFP earlier Wednesday that the KDP leader would ask for American support and assistance for the Kurdish people.

"Barzani will explain to the Americans the new reality (in Iraqi Kurdistan) so that they will understand it," Mr. Kakai said in Salahaddin City, in northern Iraq.

But U.S. diplomatic sources said Mr. Pelletreau would ask Mr. Barzani to cease his cooperation with Baghdad.

Mr. Pelletreau arrived in Ankara with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

who briefly visited the Turkish capital, on Monday and extended his stay to meet the KDP leader.

The move to invite Mr. Barzani for talks in Ankara came from both Turkey and the United States, diplomatic sources said.

The KDP said Mr. Barzani aimed "to clear the confusion" over the situation in northern Iraq and prevent the West from abandoning the Kurdish "safe haven" set up after the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Pelletreau was to try and persuade the KDP to break ties with Baghdad, and its rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) to sever links with Tehran, said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

On the Turkish side, talks with Mr. Barzani were to focus on Ankara's security

concerns and plans to set up a security zone in northern Iraq to keep out Turkish Kurd rebels.

Turkey has said it would ask the KDP to help prevent cross-border raids by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is fighting for a Kurdish state in Turkey.

Mr. Barzani's meetings in Turkey will be "very significant amid signs of U.S. attempts to abandon the Kurds," the KDP said in a statement.

It criticised "the rushed and panicked decision by the State Department to withdraw its humanitarian programme, aid agencies and local staff from the region on unfounded and overstated fear of an Iraqi presence."

But an official Iraqi news

(Continued on page 7)

Regent says Jordanians can achieve progress through parliamentary life, national dialogue and good management

Crown Prince opens industrial and table salt plant in Ghor Safi

GHOR SAFI (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday that through parliamentary life, national dialogue and good management as well as direct contacts Jordanians can achieve progress as they did in the past.

"It is not the case of scarcity of resources but rather it is a case of good management, and direct contacts among us as Jordanians to shoulder the responsibility by the official and the citizen," said the Regent.

Speaking on a visit to Ghor Safi in the Jordan Valley to inaugurate an industrial and table salt factory, Prince Hassan said: "The Jordanian community and professional institutions should uphold the slogan of dialogue aiming at achieving tangible results for the betterment of the citizens."

The Crown Prince called for maintaining economic and political dialogue among officials to bring

about good results for the local community, stressing that every one shoulders the responsibility to develop the country.

The Regent commended relations between the local community and institutions which provide job opportunities.

"Job and investment opportunities in the Jordan Valley are great. We can reclaim the barren valleys and transform them into agricultural land and develop the Dead Sea area to become an industrial region to attract investments and trade," said the Regent.

The capacity of the new factory is 1.2 million tonnes of industrial salt and 32,000 tonnes of table salt.

At the end of the ceremony, the Crown Prince distributed awards to the committee which supervised the establishment of the factory.

Several ministers, parliament members and officials attended the ceremony.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday switches on a new industrial and table salt plant in Ghor Safi (Petra photo)

Arafat, Mordechai meet; little seen of actual push to peace

EREZ CROSSING (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai for the first time on Wednesday amid indications Israel was still stalling on its long-delayed withdrawal from Hebron.

The Mordechai-Arafat meeting had been touted for weeks as the occasion for the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to detail how it wants to modify an agreement signed by Israel's previous Labour leaders to turn most of Hebron over to Mr. Arafat's self-rule government.

Neither man made any comment as they arrived for their talks at Bet Hanoun on the Palestinian side of the Erez

crossing from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

But an Israeli government spokesman said Mr. Mordechai would only present "general principles" concerning the Hebron issue to Mr. Arafat. Israeli Radio reported that Mr. Mordechai had failed to present his plan for the Hebron pullback to a meeting earlier in the day of Mr. Netanyahu's inner security cabinet, apparently to avoid a clash with ministerial hardliners who want only minimal changes to Israel's control over the city, the last major West Bank town still under occupation.

Israeli sources indicated Wednesday's talks would focus above all on other security-related matters, includ-

ing Israeli demands that Mr. Arafat pursue his crackdown on armed anti-Israeli militants.

Mr. Arafat said earlier Wednesday that he simply planned to listen to what the Israeli minister had to say.

Earlier Wednesday Mr. Arafat met in Gaza City with U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross, who stressed the United States' desire to break the deadlock which has gripped the peace process since Mr. Netanyahu came to office.

"It is important that a sense of hope be developed in a way that has real credibility," Mr. Ross said in a clear reference to growing Palestinian dismay with the lack of progress in the peace process under Mr. Netanyahu.

Opposition keeps up demands

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 23 opposition deputies in the Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday renewed their call for the resignation of the government, charged that the recent detention of suspects in the riots in the south were mostly politically-motivated and threatened to resign from the House if their grievances were not taken into consideration.

The deputies blamed the government's decision to lift subsidies on bread and fodder for what they called "the fever of prices," and demanded that "the government resigns and a new capable administration, comprised of national figures, be formed." The 23 deputies, 15 of whom belong to the Islamic Action Front, accused the authorities of arbitrarily detaining people following last month's riots in Karak and charged that "many of the detainees were held for personal or electoral reasons or political feuds."

The deputies demanded that the 54 people currently awaiting trial be released and the whole process of prosecuting people for their alleged roles in the riots be abandoned. The deputies said in their statement that they were "appalled" by reports of torture that appeared in the weekly press. They cited the case of Issam Najjar, who, the weekly Islamist newspaper Al Sabeel alleged, was tortured and abused.

"We were shocked by what we read in the weekly newspaper," the statement said. "It is not possible to think that something like this would be committed by a Jordanian, or an Arab or a Muslim" (see story on page 12). The statement went on to blame the government for what it called "the present crisis and the tense relationship between the government and the House."

The deputies, who boycotted a number of sessions during the House's extraordinary session last month and who last week said they would amend October's regular session, said Wednesday they were still considering if they would or would not boycott Parliament. They also said they were considering "mass resignation."

The deputies also condemned the U.S. for its army build-up in the Gulf and accused the Americans of "aiming at controlling the resources and will of the nation and of conspiring against the Iraqi people."

(Continued on page 7)

Izetbegovic triumphant as first president of post-war Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Top Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic has been elected as Bosnia's first post-war head of state, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said here Wednesday, after "spying the poll in weekend presidential elections."

"It's clear that President Izetbegovic will serve as president of the presidency during the two-year term until the 1998 elections," said Robert Frowick, mission head of the OSCE which ran the elections.

Mr. Frowick gave the vote for the first three candidates to the three-member presidency as 729,034 for Izetbegovic, 690,373 for Momcilo Krajisnik, and 342,007 for Kresimir Zubak.

The closeness of the vote showed that Mr. Krajisnik could have won if his main rival for the Serb seat on the presidency, the Belgrade-backed candidate Mladen Ivanic had not stood. Mr. Ivanic captured around a third of the Serb vote.

Controversy was expected to follow the announcement of the votes, after the total number of votes counted for the Serb entity topped the estimated maxi-

mum number of eligible Serb voters.

Mr. Frowick gave the number of votes cast in the Serb entity as 1,023,819.

The total estimated Serb electorate was 1.01 million. A surprisingly large number of spoilt ballots also showed up in the opposition areas of the Serb entity.

Mr. Frowick said that the joint election operation centre had reported that "minor adjustments are being made to this count, which should be regarded as unofficial for the time being."

"During the forthcoming three days the election appeals sub-commission will be looking at whatever complaints," have been made.

Izetbegovic supporters started celebrating the results, gathering in the centre of Sarajevo and calling for Mr. Izetbegovic to come out of the Bosnian presidency building to speak to them.

In the Serb entity, leading Bosnian Serb Biljana Plavsic appeared headed for victory as the next president of the Bosnian Serbs, with more than 70 per cent of the vote.

Ms. Plavsic, who before

the elections was acting Serb president, held 71.9 per cent of the vote on early results. OSCE officials said.

The Serbs "iron lady" in July replaced indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic as head of the Serb-run entity in Bosnia.

Meanwhile, in early results for the new multi-ethnic joint parliament, where Muslims, Serbs and Croats will sit, the main three nationalist parties took a strong early lead, OSCE officials said.

The Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA) had 56.79 per cent of the votes counted for federation members of the parliament. The Croatian Democratic Union had 21.35 per cent of the vote, the anti-nationalist Unified List 9.51 per cent, and the Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina 7.72 per cent.

Most votes were in from the federation, they added. In the Republika Srpska, where only half the votes had been counted by mid-afternoon, excluding the opposition stronghold of Banja Luka, the extreme Serb nationalist Serb

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Kabul repulses Taliban assault; Dostum rejects Rabbani alliance

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan government forces have repulsed an overnight armour-backed infantry assault on western Kabul by the Taliban militia besieging the city, an official statement said Wednesday.

"The attack started at 8:45 p.m. (local time) (1615 GMT) and continued until 1:00 a.m. (2030 GMT) last night," the statement issued by President Burhanuddin Rabbani's faction said.

This was the first Taliban attack against Kabul since the capture of two key provincial capitals — Jalalabad in eastern Nangarhar province and Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Bamiyan province — by the religious militia a week ago.

Some 400 Taliban fighters backed up by 12 tanks and armoured vehicles attacked the Afghan capital from their western front positions, about 25 kilometres from Kabul, the statement said.

The Taliban attack was backed up by an artillery barrage on government positions in the south and southeast of the capital, which has been encircled by the faction for the past 11 months, it said.

There were however no territorial gains by either side in the battle near the southwest highway linking Kabul with the southwest of the embattled country, the communiqué added.

The statement, issued by the office of Mr. Rabbani's military strongman Ahmad Shah Massoud, repeated a direct accusation that Pakistan is aiding the Taliban

in their attacks against the beleaguered government.

"The Pakistani-backed Taliban militia launched one of their strongest assaults against government positions around Kabul," the opening line of the statement said.

Pakistan has officially consistently denied providing any military support for the Taliban militia.

The Kabul government claimed to have inflicted "heavy casualties and damages" on the Taliban, while suffering "few casualties" to its own forces.

Bus drivers reported that the main national highway running southwest from Kabul across the frontlines dividing the government from the Taliban was open and calm early Wednesday despite the overnight attack nearby.

Meanwhile, to the east of Kabul government jets were Wednesday carrying out further bombing raids on the Nangarhar provincial district centre of Hissarak, which was captured by the Taliban a week ago and where the government and the Taliban are at their advance.

Although the Taliban can supply Hissarak from distant Jalalabad, the road south has been cut by pro-Kabul government troops, according to Massoud's office.

Afghan Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostum's faction Wednesday ruled out any alliance with the Kabul government against the Taliban, saying it rejects the continuation of "war in Afghanistan."

"The National Islamic Movement (NIM) believes in an intra-Afghan dialogue to resolve the Afghan crisis," said Painda Mohammad, a close aide to General Dostum.

Mr. Painda denied Gen. Dostum would meet emissaries from Kabul in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for talks on joining the Afghan coalition government.

"No such meeting is planned in Tashkent," the Pakistan-based NIM spokesman told AFP.

An Afghan government spokesman announced in Kabul Sunday two special envoys — Interior Minister Yunus Qanuni and Humayun Jarir, a son-in-law of Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — had left for Tashkent.

"Dostum has shown willingness to join the government but he has placed certain conditions which will be discussed in Tashkent," the government spokesman had said.

But the NIM was ready to discuss its views with all parties including the Afghan government and the Taliban movement, Mr. Painda said.

"We will negotiate with all sides," he said, adding that the Afghan government planned to send a delegation to Gen. Dostum's stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

Mr. Painda said joining the government to fight the Taliban "is against our policy," adding that NIM also believed that military operations by the militia against Kabul would further "complicate" the Afghan problem.

Asian killed in Bahrain fires

NICOSIA (AFP) — Several fires have broken out this week in Bahrain, killing an Asian shop employee in the southeast of the country, witnesses said Wednesday.

The authorities said the fires were "of criminal origin" and linked to the anti-government unrest in the archipelago that broke out in December 1994.

Witnesses contacted by AFP said an Asian died in a blaze Monday at a store where he was employed in the Sitra area. The victim was not identified by name or nationality.

On Tuesday a fire destroyed two cars in the Jid Hafs area west of Manama, according to witnesses, who said there have been sporadic fires in various parts of the country.

The Bahrain Liberation Movement, based in London, noted the series of fires in a statement issued Wednesday but did not say who was responsible.

An official in Bahrain said Wednesday that explosions which destroyed three cars Monday in the suburb of Um Al Hassam, near Manama, were "of criminal origin" and part of "the series of acts of sabotage."

"The inquiry is continuing in order to identify the perpetrators of these explosions" which destroyed the three vehicles, one of which was registered in Qatar, the same source said.

At least 24 people have died in the anti-government violence, while the opposition says there have been 29 "martyrs."

Mubarak points finger at Iran for assassination bid

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has for the first time accused Iran of involvement in a bid to assassinate him during a visit to Addis Ababa in 1995.

"The testimony of terrorists who have been arrested indicates that Iran was involved and was helped by Sudan in preparing this operation," Mr. Mubarak said in an interview published Wednesday by the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat.

He was reacting to charges earlier this month from his top advisor Osama Al Baz who also implicated Iran in the failed bid to kill Mr. Mubarak.

"There is information emerging from terrorists who have been arrested. They testified that Iran was involved and was helped by Sudan in preparing this operation," Mr. Mubarak said.

"Sudan's capabilities alone are limited, especially when it comes to organising a big operation of this nature."

"What has been published about the investigations carried out by the Ethiopian authorities with the suspects in the assassination bid also indicate Iran's involvement," he added.

Asked what interest Iran had to sponsor such a bid, the president said: "Egypt is an obstacle to Iranian plans and its occupation of Arab territory and its ambitions to extend its hegemony on the Gulf region."

"We are opposed to these plans and support the independence and security of Gulf Arab countries," he said.

He was referring to a row between Iran and the United Arab Emirates over control of three strategic islands in the southern Gulf. Egypt has

repeatedly backed Abu Dhabi's position in the conflict.

Earlier this month Iran denied Egyptian accusations that Tehran was involved in the failed assassination bid, saying that Tehran had always condemned terrorist actions.

The Foreign Ministry in Tehran said the Egyptian accusations were "an attempt to blame Egypt's internal problems on foreign countries."

Dr. Baz said on Sept. 5 that "Egyptian terrorist commandos committed the attack with the help of Sudan and also Iran."

It was the first time that Cairo directly linked Iran to the attack, although it has often accused Tehran of supporting militant violence in Egypt that has killed more than 1,000 people since 1992.

Cairo has announced the arrest of 44 armed militants "supported and financed" by Iran, who were planning attacks in Egypt.

Diplomatic relations have been severed between Cairo and Tehran since the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979.

After the failed bid in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian authorities arrested three Egyptian fundamentalist militants in connection with the attack.

Safit Hassan, Abdulkarim Al Nadi and Al Arak Sadiq Hafez were captured in the Ethiopian capital four days after a commando opened fire on Mr. Mubarak's motorcade on June 26, 1995.

Five other members of the group were killed on the spot by security forces.

The trial of the three suspects opened in Addis Ababa in May and they reportedly pleaded not guilty.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coup bid trial under way in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A military court in Sudan is currently trying a group of soldiers and civilians accused of attempting a coup against the regime of General Omar Al Bashir, the Akhbar Al Yom daily reported Wednesday. The suspects, led by a colonel, Awad Al Karim, have been allowed a defence counsel headed by lawyer Daffallah Al Roudhi, the paper said. The alleged coup plotters, who number 44 according to opposition sources, were arrested in Khartoum in March. The newspaper did not specify how many people were on trial nor when the hearings began. In mid-March, the Sudanese army announced the arrest of several officers, including five on active duty, for interrogation in connection with an alleged coup bid. The military then said the group was led by a colonel. The secretary general of the People's National Congress, the highest political assembly in Sudan, Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani, earlier spoke of a coup attempt "inspired by partisan and sectarian motives and with foreign involvement," but he gave no further details.

Moderate quake hits Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A moderate earthquake, registering 5.0 on the Richter scale, struck the eastern Turkish provinces of Bingol and Erzurum early on Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. State-run Anatolian news agency said the epicentre of the quake was located at Karliova township, in Bingol province. "We are not informed of any casualties so far. The earthquake only lasted for one or two seconds. It was weak," Saim Yilmaz, a local official, told Reuters by telephone. "But we are still chasing remote villages with which we have communication problems," Mr. Yilmaz said. A policeman in Erzurum said there were no reports of damage or casualties in that province either. "We are not expecting any, as the earthquake here was weak." A tremor of 5.0 on the Richter scale is powerful enough to cause heavy damage in a populated area.

Pylon, gas pipeline sabotaged in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two bomb explosions damaged an electricity pylon and a gas pipeline near Cap Djinet, 60 kilometres east of the Algerian capital Algiers, the Liberte daily reported Wednesday. After the blasts overnight Monday, the town of Cap Djinet was deprived of electricity, the paper said. Sabotage explosions are generally attributed to armed extremists at war with the secular government. Liberte also reported that "patriots," armed civilian volunteers fighting the Muslim fundamentalists, killed one in an ambush at Hamrouna in the same region on Tuesday night. The paper said his companion, Tahar Haouas, "a known-terrorist in the region," had managed to escape.

Pakistan to extradite Iran-sought criminals

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan has assured Iran it would extradite criminals wanted by Iranian authorities and increase cooperation in curbing drug trafficking along the common border, officials said Wednesday. The assurance was given by Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar during a meeting with Mohammad Fajlah, a senior official of the Iranian anti-narcotics department, currently visiting Pakistan. Mr. Babar also agreed to help the Iranian authorities in busting gangs of car thieves operating along the frontier, officials said. On reports that cars stolen from Iran were being sold in Pakistan, Mr. Babar asked the Iranian team to provide chassis numbers so that stolen vehicles could be recovered. The officials said Mr. Fajlah appreciated Pakistan's efforts in controlling drug trafficking between the two countries and curtailing opium production. But the Iranian side stressed that the menace could not be eliminated unless manufacturing of heroin was stopped in neighbouring Afghanistan. Mr. Fajlah was quoted as saying poppy cultivation and narcotics trade had gone out of control due to political disorder in Afghanistan, officials said. Mr. Babar suggested that Iran, Pakistan and the United Nations drug control programme should help Afghanistan substitute poppy cultivation with other cash crops.

Israeli tourist killed in Peru

LIMA (AFP) — An Israeli tourist was killed when bandits attacked a campsite at the foot of the Yerupaja Mountain in the northeast Andes, police said. The victim was identified as Eli Swisa, 32. He was part of an international group of six mountain climbers preparing to scale the mountain. Police said the bandits approached the campsite on Sunday night with the intent of stealing material as the tourists slept. The victim, apparently awakened by noise, tried to stop them and was shot to death.

Kuwait's diplomatic push aims at Russia

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Russia became the latest target on Wednesday in Kuwait's diplomatic offensive to bolster support for the U.S. military build up in the country.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Suleyman Al Shaheen, who is effectively the deputy minister, will travel to Moscow on Thursday to meet Russian officials and "building mutual relations," a Foreign Ministry official said.

However, the official would not give details about what would be discussed or which Russian officials Mr. Shaheen would meet.

Kuwaiti ministers have been touring Arab and other international capitals to bolster support for the U.S. military build up in Kuwait, which includes sending additional U.S. troops to

join 1,200 soldiers already in the Kuwait desert.

Russian diplomatic intervention was behind Iraq's decision to suspend firing at allied aircraft over the no-fly zones last Friday, and Moscow has been continuing its initiatives aimed at preventing another U.S. strike on Iraq.

Kuwait's diplomatic offensive has included sending Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah to Egypt and Syria and Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Hamud Al Sabah to fellow Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Sheikh Saud said on Tuesday that his mission dealt with "the Iraqi threats against Kuwait and Iraqi military movements" that threatened Kuwait's stability.

Somali gunmen free American aid official

NAIROBI (R) — Somali gunmen released on Wednesday an American working for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a spokesman at the U.S. embassy and aid workers in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi said.

The spokesman said Daniel Suther, seized by at least eight gunmen in north Mogadishu on Tuesday, was set free on Wednesday morning and was handed over to officials of the Medecines Sans Frontieres (MSF — Doctors Without Borders).

But MSF-Spain officials said they understood Mr. Suther was set free in Djibouti, around 50 kilometres from Mogadishu.

"He was set free. He was not specifically handed over to U.S.," a MSF-Spain official added.

Neither the U.S. embassy spokesman nor the MSF-Spain official would discuss the whereabouts of the American.

On Tuesday, the gunmen disarmed Mr. Suther's two Somali guards in his four-wheel-drive vehicle and drove off with him and his Somali driver towards the coastal town of Uarsciek, some 50 kilometres north-east of the capital, security sources said.

They said Ali Mahdi Mohammad, whose Abgal clan alliance controls north Mogadishu, ordered an Islamic court to seize the kidnappers and also sent two "technicals," four-wheel-drive battlewagons, to Uarsciek to recover the American.

Mr. Suther was taken shortly after meeting Mr. Ali Mahdi, they said.

Egyptian president says Rabin had informed him Israel will quit Golan

CAIRO (AFP) — The late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin promised the United States and Egypt that he would withdraw from the Golan Heights, Syria's main demand in peace talks, Egypt's president said in an interview published Wednesday.

"Rabin told the American administration and told me personally that he was ready for a full withdrawal from the Golan," President Hosni Mubarak told the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat.

"But he wanted to know what he would get in exchange. He wanted normalisation and normal relations," Mr. Mubarak said.

The disclosure was the latest report that Mr. Rabin had promised to leave the Golan, which Israel seized in the 1967 war.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who was elected in May, confirmed that Mr. Rabin made the pledge, but said the United States does not believe Israel is bound by the promise.

Syria has demanded that negotiations pick up where they left off with the previous government. Mr. Netanyahu argues they should start from scratch since there were no written agreements and says that Israel should hold onto the strategic plateau.

Mr. Rabin was assassinated in November. "The new prime minister does not want to be held by the promises of the previous government," Mr. Mubarak said in the interview with the London-based newspaper. "But wasn't that a government of Israel or was it a government of another country?"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Jonny Quest
15:30 N.B.A. Basketball
16:30 Take Your Pick (Game Show)
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Cliche
17:30 Show — Surprise Sur Price
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:33 Comedy — Here's Lucy
20:00 Doc — In Good Company
20:30 Challenges
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature Film — "Vanished"
23:59 Comedy — Family Matters

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fajr
06:17 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:50 Dhuhr
15:59 Asr
18:42 Maghreb
20:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.

Amman International Church
Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin-Catholic Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising slightly but remaining below average and winds northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 17/29

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 830432
Dr. Bahjat Bader 832642
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi 893542
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Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Nabhan 995743
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199

AGABA

..... 22/37
Deserts 15/32
Jordan Valley 22/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 26, Aqaba 37 Humidity
readings: Amman 55 per cent.
Aqaba 39 per cent.

Rescue Police 192, 621111,
637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department
630321

Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akileh Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140

PALESTINE, SHMEISANI

607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)372275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Moscow (RJ)
11:25 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
20:35 Lamaka (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Jeddah (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:40 Sharjah (AH)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
20:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:40 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:40 Amsterdam (KL)
00:25 London (KJ)
03:00 Rome (AZ)

Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08 (53250).

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
09:45 Sanas (RJ)
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
17:20 Moscow (RJ)
17:50 London (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:15 Casablanca (RJ)
19:00 Bangkok, Culcutta (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
20:00 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:25 Rome (RJ)
00:15 Lamaka (RJ)
09:15 Muscat (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
07:45 Beirut, London (BA)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:30 Algiers (AF)
21:25 Cairo (MS)
22:15 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (LF)
00:40 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
06:40 London (KJ)

ROYAL WINGS (RW) FLIGHTS

10:00 Aqaba (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
09:45 Sanas (RJ)
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
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17:50 London (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
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23:55 Damascus, Paris (LF)
00:40 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
06:40 London (KJ)

ROYAL WINGS (RW) FLIGHTS

10:00 Aqaba (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (mukhammar) 520/520
Banana (imported) 760/500
Cabbage 110/70
Carrot 300/150
Cauliflower 420/250
Cucumber (large) 150/100
Cucumber (small) 280/180
Eggplant 240/150
Fig 300/200
Garlic 700/450
Grapes 450/300
Guava 750/400
Lemon 360/250
Marrow (large) 180/120
Marrow (small) 340/200
Mulukhiyah 120/70
Onion (dry) 160/90
Okra 1200/700
Pea 650/400
Pepper (hot) 340/200
Pepper (sweet) 340/200
Plum 620/400
Pomegranate 380/250
Potato 280/160
String Bean 700/400
Sweet melon 380/250
Tomato 2

Indicted for honour crime, man receives a 15-fold sentence reduction

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After one trial and two appeals, the Amman Criminal Court Wednesday reduced the sentence of a 22-year-old man who killed his sister, from seven and a half years to one year imprisonment.

Originally the Criminal Court had sentenced Mohamad Ahmad Abu Miri to 15 years for the murder of his divorced sister Intisar A. 12, in Jabal Nasser on Dec. 12, 1995.

The court had reduced the sentence by half because the victim's family dropped charges.

She had been divorced for the past five years.

The tribunal had originally dismissed the defence argument that Abu Miri

killed his sister in a fit of fury to cleanse his family's honour, stating that the defendant knew of his sister's "improper conduct" for the past five years and he did not kill her and therefore should not benefit from a penalty reduction.

But on July 20, 1996, the Court of Cassation returned the case to the Criminal Court for the second time, asking that it reduce the sentence reasoning that the convict should receive such a reduction as he committed his crime in a fit of fury.

"The victim provoked the defendant by telling him that she was free to do as she wished and she also insulted him, which compelled him to lose his temper and shoot her," the higher court said.

According to the prosecution, on Dec. 12, Mr. Abu Miri ran into his sister at their uncle's home and advised her to change her behaviour and to live with him or with her father, but she refused.

The convict then drew an unlicensed gun, which according to court documents he had purchased the preceding day, and shot his sister in the head killing her instantly.

Upon surrendering to the authorities shortly after committing the murder, Mr. Abu Miri told police that he killed his sister because "she was involved in several immoral relationships during the past five years and because she informed him that she was free to do as she wished."

General practitioners conference discusses sanctions on Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The effects on children of the U.N. sanctions on Iraq, the role of the general practitioner in safeguarding the health of local communities and job descriptions of general practitioners are among the main topics to be tackled by a three-day conference which opened Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman.

Minister of Health Aref Bataineh, deputising for his Majesty King Hussein, said during the opening session that the conference takes place at a time when the community has a dire need to promote primary health care, occupational and school health services as well as preventive and curative medical practices, all areas handled by the general practitioner.

"The Health Ministry has entrusted general practitioners working at public clinics and hospitals with the task of handling primary health care, health services at maternity centres, vaccination programmes, children's health and sanitation," said Dr. Bataineh.

President of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) Basem Dajani urged gener-

al practitioners to undertake more prominent roles in JMA activities.

He also called on all physicians to extend assistance to the Al Maqased Hospital in East Jerusalem which faces financial constraints, noting that it is the only medical training hospital in the Palestinian territories.

President of the Jordanian Society for General Practitioners (JSGP) Awni Hawamdeh addressed the meeting thanking the Belgian and Italian lecturers and welcomed delegates from Iraq, Palestine, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Algeria who are participating in the meetings.

Subsequent to the opening session, a special ceremony was held to honour veteran general practitioners who had made valuable societal contributions.

The Minister of Health later opened an exhibition displaying medical equipment utilised by both domestic and foreign companies.

The meeting, the first of its kind in Jordan, was organised by the JSGP and the JMA.



Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, on Wednesday presents a citation to a family member of a cornea donor at a ceremony held at the Khalil Al Rahman Society (Petra photo)

King honours families, relatives of cornea donors

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the chief chamberlain, Wednesday honoured family members and rela-

tives of cornea donors. In a special ceremony organised by the Friends of the Jordanian Eyes Bank Society held at Khalil Al Rahman Society, Prince Ra'd paid tribute to donors of corneas

and said such donations were a humanitarian gesture.

At the end of the ceremony, Prince Ra'd distributed certificates to the donors' relatives.

Pontifical mission closes; accusations fly

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Pontifical Mission for Palestine (PMP), one of the most active foreign non-governmental organisations in Jordan, is packing up and ready to leave the country at a time when local community and church leaders believe its services are most necessary. They state unprecedented levels of poverty and unemployment plaguing the Kingdom.

According to a charter formed upon its inception 47 years ago, "the PMP is a special agency of the Vatican established to assist, with no distinction of nationality or religion, all those who suffer due to repeated conflicts which have devastated Palestine and the neighbouring regions of the Middle East."

"The decision to withdraw from Jordan could not have been taken at a worse time, with the most negative consequences hitting Jordan's needy," stated Father Mousa Adeli, former director of Caritas, another NGO providing charitable

assistance to nationals irrespective of their origin or creed.

Father George Far, a Roman Catholic parish priest for several years in southern Jordan described the move as "most devastating for Jordan at large."

"Indeed the needy will feel like orphans if the PMP pulls out," he added.

The Amman office director of the PMP has been instructed to cease all operations by the end of September while its staff has been served notice.

The objectives of its mission, as announced in 1949, are the provision of food, clothing, medical assistance, temporary shelter and other basic necessities for those dispossessed, displaced or otherwise affected by war or discrimination.

The PMP also repaired and reconstructed homes and educational, medical, charitable, religious and cultural facilities damaged by war. It established, equipped and maintained programmes and institutions for the care of orphaned and needy children, the physically and

mentally handicapped, the sick, the homeless and the aged. It worked on improving the basic infrastructures of villages and refugee camps with attention to sewage, water and electrical installations.

Confirming that the Amman PMP office was closing, Director Raymond Riddick stated that the Jerusalem PMP office will now be in charge of the mission's activities in Jordan.

"Our headquarters in New York decided to take this step after failing to persuade local church members to cooperate in helping the PMP carry out its mission in Jordan," Mr. Riddick stated.

"For the past five years we have been trying in vain to make local church leaders understand our method of executing the PMP's mission and adjust to international methods of providing assistance while working jointly with our office," he added.

"It is true that we have been helping the needy all these years but in addition we have been implementing social services for

churches and their communities, a task which should be mainly undertaken by local people and their churches," said Mr. Riddick.

"For example we have been involved in Caritas work, built youth centres, financed church-related activities but there have been all sorts of complications making the continuation of our mission impossible," said Mr. Riddick.

He said that the Jerusalem office will maintain a symbolic presence in Amman and that an officer will occasionally visit while the PMP office in New York might decide to maintain activities and services for the Palestine refugee camps only.

But Mr. Riddick's views were countered by Father Adeli and Father Far both of whom told the Jordan Times that church and community leaders have not hindered PMP projects over the past years but closely cooperated with the Amman office and rather that it has been the PMP's director who has demonstrated himself as uncooperative with local people.

"The PMP helped us to establish a sheep farm in Smakieh near Karak and buy tractors for field work in Ader, said Father Far. He further stated that in Madaba the PMP helped the local parish to set up a computer centre and in almost all main towns the PMP has been providing medicines to the needy and paying part of the hospital bills for the poor patients.

The PMP has also established vocational and dress-making centres in refugee camps and built libraries for schools and according to Father Adeli it has been spending nearly JD1 million in Jordan every year.

He added that the PMP has also been providing food and medicine to Iraqis both in the Kingdom and in Iraq although its main local mission is to help Palestinians living in Jordan.

Father Adeli accused Mr. Riddick of masterminding the termination of the PMP's mission in Jordan and expressed regret over the decision while reaffirming church and community leaders readiness to work with all NGOs for the benefit of the country.

Subversion suspects plead not guilty

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three men accused of plotting subversion in the Kingdom Wednesday pleaded not guilty at the State Security Court.

Irendah Mahmoud, 28, Yousef Ahmad, 27, and Ali Mahmoud, 27, pleaded not guilty to the military prosecutor's charges which included plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal explosives with illicit intent.

During the court session, Defence Attorney Rami Ghareibeh asked the court to allow for more time to present a statement contesting the court's jurisdiction.

Attorney Ghareibeh further said during the court session that the defence team intends to protest interrogation procedures.

According to the prosecution, the three defendants who resided in the Hashmeh district of Ajloun, decided to target Israeli tourists visiting Ajloun and Jerash, following the signing of the peace treaty between the two countries.

The charge sheet said the first defendant Irendah Mahmoud had become acquainted with a military officer and requested that he teach the defendant how to detonate land mines.

In Nov. of 1995, the defendant was able to dig 25 land mines, from a minefield in Kafarangeh district in Ajloun, which he later hid in a cave.

On Feb. 2, 1996, the three defendants collected the land mines, placed them in bags, stopped a pick-up truck and asked the driver to give them a ride to their hometown.

The three were apprehended after they aroused the suspicions of a police officer in civil uniform who was riding with them, according to the charge sheet.

A nearby police unit searched the men's bags and found the land mines. The men were immediately arrested.

The Court was presided over by Judges Yousef Faour, Na'el Masadeh and Ahmad Ayash who agreed to the defence request and set Oct. 2 to hear arguments.

Meanwhile, the State Security Court is expected to hear closing defence and prosecution arguments by Oct. 12 in the case of two men accused of plotting to carry out extremist attacks.

The two defendants Salem Abdullah and Ahmad Qassem, are also charged with manufacturing and possessing illegal arms and hand-made explosives.

Workshop on political parties calls for more awareness

By Christina Schlegl
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A workshop on Jordanian political parties scheduled to take place on Sept. 21 through the 23rd has been postponed to Dec. 1, though, not for "political reasons," says a workshop organiser.

According to Taleb Awad, executive manager of the Al Urdum Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC) which is holding the workshop, the organisers needed more time to prepare for the meeting and the space they requested at the Royal Cultural Centre will not be available until the beginning of December.

Barring those logistical impediments, the seminar, which is organised by the UJRC in cooperation with the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAF), for financial and organisational support, will focus on seven main topics: external and internal obstacles facing political parties in Jordan, experience in establishing political parties and programmes and activities of political parties, political parties and elections, the political programme in Jordan, improvement of the political parties' image in society and the future of political party work in Jordan.

Twenty-two Jordanian political parties are expected to join the workshop covering virtually the whole political spectrum in the Kingdom.

"Four years ago when various political parties in Jordan became legal upon the establishment of the Political Parties Law in Sept. 1992, we had our first workshop on this topic and organised a follow-up seminar in 1994. This year's workshop was set up to discuss the development of the country's political

life," Mr. Awad explained.

The meeting will, moreover, aim at the parties' preparations for the forthcoming parliamentary elections in 1997, he added.

"What we are lacking in Jordan is organised party work and an improved system to stabilise democracy within the country," Mr. Awad further stated.

This primarily means that parties need to be guided on organising election campaigns, ways to upgrade their efficiency and reorganise and thus improve their internal structures and systems.

Concerning public work, Mr. Awad said parties need to improve their image because "people's political awareness and participation in parties is still insufficient, and remains a major problem within the Kingdom's democratic process," he stressed.

He said the UJRC intends to concentrate on the society, government and the parties themselves.

"The society," Mr. Awad said, "has to take a more active role within politics. Political parties are not very popular. The public feels that their demands and needs are not properly represented. We will discuss and try to find ways to change this at the workshop. What we need is more political education and identification among citizens, a very important element for the implementation of democratic rights."

But according to Mr. Awad, government employees are often discouraged by their employers from political activism.

The Lower House of Parliament has 80 elected deputies, 40 per cent of whom are members of political parties and the remainder independents.

Mr. Awad believes representation

should be boosted to 120 deputies — 80 representatives from the voting districts and 40 members from political parties.

In January, this year, the government increased the number of voting districts from 20 to 32.

He also sees a need the age requirement of candidates from 30 years to 25 or even 21 years, and the age of eligible voters from 19 years down to 18.

Women activists have special programmes for their participation in the parliament, he added.

The UJRC is seeking a quota representation for women in parliament up to 20 per cent.

And finally, on the political parties' side, there is a need for more cooperation between the parties and the formation of coalitions, Mr. Awad stressed.

The only existing coalition right now is the National Front formed by the Progress and Justice Party, the Reawakening Party, Jordanian Arab Popular Party and the Homeland Party.

The UJRC has been cooperating with Konrad Adenauer Foundation on many occasions like the political party training workshop in 1994.

They also organised an exchange visit for Jordanian — Europe Parliamentary Experience in 1995 and a seminar on electoral systems in the same year, followed by two workshops on "parliamentary performance in Jordan" and "democracy and rule of law - assessment and outlook."

The Research Centre was established in 1990 as an independent Jordanian scientific organisation engaged in research and studies as well as organising seminars for discussion, dialogue, training, consultations and the exchange of expertise.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Dia Azzawi" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S SONG FESTIVAL

* Conclusion of festival and presentation of prizes to the winning song at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS


* Works by Mohammad Al Jalooos at Baladna Art Gallery, entitled "Pathetic" at Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 3.
* Works by Shereen Odeh at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 623297), until Oct. 1.
* Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre,

Shmelsani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.
* "Water colours works by Salam Kanaan and Pia Hayes at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303), until Sept. 26.
* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

* Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

CHARITY BAZAAR

* Fourth Baccalaureate School Charity Bazaar at the school's premises on Friday. (Bazaar includes a variety of games, horse ride, product displays, musical performances, fashion shows, etc.



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2 blasts hit Karachi; 1 dies

KARACHI (AFP) — Two bomb blasts hit Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi, Wednesday killing one person and injuring three more, officials said.

Security was immediately intensified at all major buildings in the city which has seen two years of ethnic troubles, officials said.

The first explosion destroyed a bank. The dead and injured were in the second, two hours later, which ripped through the Sind province government building.

Police said the two bombs

were similar and both had timing devices. But they did not name any suspects. "All we can say for now is that it could have been anybody. It is the work of terrorists," a police official told AFP.

Police were working on leads that the attacks were carried out by supporters of Murtaza Bhutto, brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. One of his key activists was arrested Tuesday.

Another officer said the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Karachi's biggest ethnic political group, had also not been ruled out.

The killer bomb was left against a wall of the government building, which houses provincial ministers and senior administration officials.

A huge crater was left, witnesses said. Windows of nearby buildings were shattered and several people were cut by flying glass. Several cars were damaged.

There was mass confusion as people rushed to get out of the provincial administration and police and paramilitary troops tried to clear the area.

The first bomb went off at

7:40 a.m. a few kilometres away outside the prestigious Karachi Gymkhana Club. Passers by said the time had spared a lot of casualties. If it had gone off one hour later the street would have been packed with commuters going to work.

Police said the blast contained around one kilogramme of explosive. The bomb, placed on a side-street against a wall, destroyed the front section of a National Bank of Pakistan branch immediately opposite.

Shards of glass blanketed the street and there was considerable damage inside the bank with wrecked furniture and computer terminals across the floor.

The bomb went off a few blocks from Karachi's main five-star hotels, the U.S. consulate and city government offices.

There have been a series of explosions in Lahore, the Punjab province capital, this year which have left dozens dead.

The Sind government building came under attack last year, when militants had fired several rocket-propelled grenades.

More than 2,000 people died in political and religious violence last year, but the city had been relatively peaceful in the past few months.



Police and office workers examine the site of a bomb blast in the centre of Karachi, Wednesday. Two bomb blasts rocked the city killing one person, police and ambulance workers said (Reuters photo)

Italy investigates Bossi after 'independence day'

MANTUA, Italy (R) — Magistrates Tuesday named separatist Umberto Bossi as one of several people under investigation after the weekend declaration of "independence" for northern Italy.

Mario Luperto, prosecutor for the northern city of Mantua, confirmed Mr. Bossi was under investigation.

He gave no details of any possible charges Mr. Bossi could face but judicial sources said the likely ones were attacking the unity of the state, inciting others, breaking a ban on military-style groups and ethnic discrimination.

At the same time, magistrates in Venice also announced they had opened a preliminary inquiry into the Northern League's declaration in the lagoon city Sunday.

They did not give names or any specific crimes.

"Before we proceed, we shall look at all the evidence," said prosecutor Vitaliano Fortunati.

Italy's post-World War II constitution makes it an offence to threaten national unity or independence.

Former Constitutional Court President Ettore Gallo has called for Mr. Bossi to be arrested for defying the constitution.

Mr. Bossi said Monday that if he were arrested, he would immediately declare himself a prisoner of war.

Mr. Bossi repeatedly denounced southerners and called for secession as he travelled the length of the northern River Po

from Friday to Sunday. He declared the existence of an "independent federal republic of Padania" in Venice.

Mr. Luperto said his office was looking into "the green shirts above all and, in particular, the National Guard which is a distinct entity to the green shirts."

Many of Mr. Bossi's militant supporters wear green shirts, a move that to many Italians harks ominously back to World War II fascist times when dictator Benito Mussolini's diehard supporters wore black shirts.

Some of those acting as officials at Mr. Bossi's weekend rallies had the words "National Guard" on their shirt sleeves and pockets, with names such as the "Viper Brigade."

Mr. Bossi said at the weekend that he intended to found a voluntary National Guard to defend his new "republic"

Mr. Bossi, who refers derisively to southerners as "Los Latinos" and has claimed "Padanians" were of "Cello-Venetian" origin, also repeatedly used an analogy to describe the difference between north and south.

If a northerner had his scooter stolen, he went to the Carabinieri to report the theft, he said. If a southerner had it stolen, he went to the mafia to get it back.

Mr. Bossi's three-day march to the sea was widely viewed as a flop, far overshadowed by rival pro-unity rallies.

World parliamentarians discuss human rights at China meet

Beijing (R) — International parliamentarians have seized a rare chance for open debate in Beijing to demand an end to Chinese repression in the restive Himalayan region of Tibet, officials at an global conference said Wednesday.

Norwegian and Austrian delegates to the 46th conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) had called on China to boost protection of human rights during a general debate Tuesday, the officials said.

Tibetans had no religious or political freedom and their ethnic rights were being disregarded, an IPU summary of the debate quoted Austrian delegate Josef Hochtl as saying.

China's huge economic progress had not been matched in the sphere of human rights, Mr. Hochtl said.

Beijing should open the hand of friendship to Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, China's arch-rival for the loyalty of the people of the remote mountain region, said Norwegian member of parliament Harald Ellefsen.

The debate on the second day of the five-day IPU conference was the first time Beijing has permitted open discussion of human rights by foreigners since the U.N. World Conference on Women in the capital last year.

China rejects most foreign criticism of its human rights record as interference in its internal affairs and routinely refuses visas to rights groups it considers hostile, but is powerless to control the parliamentary debate, officials say.

Mr. Ellefsen's remarks provoked criticism from a senior delegate from China's parliament, the National People's Congress.

Zhu Qizhen, vice-chairman of the Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee dismissed the Norwegian delegate's comments as irresponsible and unhelpful, the official Xinhua

News Agency said in an overnight report.

"The Norwegian representative does not know the conditions of China's Tibet, but made unwarranted charges with some groundless remarks, saying that China violated human rights in Tibet (and) even claiming overtly that Tibet is a conquered land," Xinhua quoted Mr. Zhu as telling the conference.

"His words, which interfere with another country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, were extremely irresponsible," Mr. Zhu said.

Tibetans had enjoyed no human rights under a merciless system of feudal serfdom in force before Chinese troops took control of the region in 1959, he said.

Tibet, a largely undeveloped region of scattered towns, mountain monasteries and nomadic herders, has long been rocked by opposition to Beijing rule.

Beijing Tuesday warned that foreign leaders who met the Dalai Lama would see trade and business ties with China suffer, but Australian Prime Minister John Howard said he still hoped to meet the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize laureate next week.

China opposes attempts by the Dalai Lama to garner international support for Tibetan autonomy and last week warned his recent visit to New Zealand would damage ties with Wellington.

Tibetans should be granted more freedoms and protection of human rights should be improved throughout China, where executions continued to be carried out with shocking frequency, Austria's Hochtl told the IPU conference.

The conference, a talking shop for more than 600 members of parliament from 120 countries, is scheduled to discuss human rights again Thursday. It is also debating food issues and a worldwide ban on anti-personnel mines.

China recalls bitter past on Japan anniversary

BEIJING (R) — China Wednesday marked the 65th anniversary of the start of its invasion by Japan with strident editorials recalling the bitterness of war and demands for Tokyo to renounce past militarism.

Attempts by rightwing groups to buttress Tokyo's claim to the disputed islands in the East China Sea showed some Japanese were determined to reopen the seeping wounds left by a war begun in 1931 in northeastern Manchuria, the official China Daily said.

"There are still a minority of Japanese who rigidly grasp the corpse of militarism and will not let go, who return evil for good and constantly create disturbances," thundered the People's Daily, mouthpiece of Beijing's Communist leadership.

China should be on its guard against any repeat of past tragedies, while some Japanese politicians continued to deny Tokyo's history of aggression, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Sept. 18 has long been one of the most sensitive dates in a history of Sino-Japanese relations strewn with bitter anniversaries.

The day marks the start of the occupation by Japanese troops of the region that is now known as northeastern China and led directly to the 1937 start of an all-out invasion of the country in which tens of millions of Chinese were killed.

Anniversary tensions this year have been raised by a renewed dispute over Tokyo's control of the uninhabited but potentially resource-rich group of islands known in Chinese as the Diaoyu and in Japanese as the Senkakus.

Scores of uniformed and plainclothes police stood by at the Japanese embassy in Beijing to prevent any public expression of anger over the July construction by a Japanese rightwing youth group of a lighthouse on one of the Diaoyu islands.

Beijing, charting a delicate course between nationalist outrage and diplomatic caution, has joined rival claimant Taiwan in denouncing Tokyo's failure to curb the rightwingers but has avoided demands for military action.



Catholic Cardinal Jozef Tomko, closely protected by Burundian soldiers, walks through a crowd of people on his way to attend the requiem mass for Archbishop Joachim Ruhuna killed by assailants in an ambush last week. Arch. Tomko strongly denounced all those involved in violence which is tearing the country apart (Reuters photo)

Burundi archbishop's body found

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Soldiers in Burundi have recovered the bodies of the country's assassinated Roman Catholic Archbishop, Joachim Ruhuna, and that of a nun who was murdered with him, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

The bodies were found buried in a field after Hutu rebels and troops of the Tutsi-dominated army exchanged fire on Mwumba hillside, not far from the scene of the killings in central Burundi, Lieutenant-Colonel Longin Minani said.

The bodies were brought to Gitega at 1:30 this morning (2330 GMT Tuesday), he said.

A member of the archbishop's staff told AFP that the bodies would be buried in Gitega Thursday after a requiem mass to be said at 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT).

Four other people who were travelling with the archbishop were found alive after the attack. They included the driver, who was shot and wounded. He said that a "crowd of people, some almost in rags, but armed to the teeth" had attacked the car, which was "riddled with bullets."

On Tuesday, the army said it was certain that the Forces for the Defence of Democracy, the armed wing of the main Hutu organisation, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD), killed the archbishop.

But CNDD spokesman Jerome Ndiho has denied responsibility, saying that

found freshly turned earth in the sorghum field. They dug and found the two bodies, but did not recognise them. Their commander then went to Gitega," he added.

The conflict between the two sides at the cost of more than 150,000 lives, according to a toll by Amnesty International.

The conflict flared up after the assassination of the first Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye, in October 1993, the year he took over from Maj. Buyoya following Burundi's first free elections.

Maj. Buyoya, who seized back control two days after Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya took refuge in the U.S. embassy when he was stoned, called for calm following the cleric's murder.

"Let nobody use this unhappy event as a pretext to perpetrate acts of vengeance or plunge into extremism," Maj. Buyoya said last week.

The Pope's special envoy called Tuesday for an end to the slaughter in Burundi in an emotional plea at a memorial service for Arch. Ruhuna.

"In the name of God, it is up to you, the political leaders, members of different parties, the military and armed groups, to stop massacring the people of Burundi, to stop the killing," said Cardinal Jozef Tomko.

Protests erupt across Hong Kong over island dispute

HONG KONG (AFP) — Protests against Japanese claims to a disputed island chain in the East China Sea broke out across Hong Kong Wednesday's 65th anniversary of Japan's invasion of China.

A pro-Chinese alliance campaigning against Japan's actions in the Diaoyu-Senkaku Islands, handed in a 700,000-name petition calling on Japan to withdraw from the islands, claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan.

A group of World War II veterans, demanding compensation from Japan, staged a noisy march to the Japanese consulate with a petition accusing Japan of renewed militarism.

They also demanded that the Japanese government compensate them for the useless Japanese military notes which they were forced to change their money into during the war.

Meanwhile, Tsuguyoshi Hada, Japanese consulate spokesman in Hong Kong, called for calm as petitions poured into the consulate, where a group of 20 students was expected to end late Wednesday.

"We should tackle the problem (over the disputed islands) carefully," he said. "It (the protests) must not affect the good relationships between China and Japan."

The consulate was the unwilling host to a string of protesting groups Wednesday, the last a party of school children aged between 6 and 18.

Students presented a name petition to an

impassive consulate official.

"We just want to say leave the Diaoyu Islands alone," said Sze Lun-Hung, "we don't remember the war, but we do learn about Japanese militarism."

Outside the group of war veterans were singing patriotic songs with around 20 college students who were staging a 24-hour protest outside the exchange square offices of the Japanese consulate.

Earlier a group of elderly protesters and those from the alliance of worldwide Chinese working for the protection of Diaoyu, stormed into the Japanese-owned Sogo Department Store in the Causeway Bay district.

"Down with Japanese militarism," read banners brandished by the demonstrators, who called for a boycott of Japanese goods and shouted anti-Japanese slogans.

"We will never forgive what the Japanese imperial armies have done to the Chinese," said Liang Shui-Kong, one of the protesters. "They must stop invading the Diaoyu Islands, if not they will have sleepless nights."

The islands in the East China Sea, which have valuable fishing grounds and are thought to be rich in oil deposits, are known as the Diaoyu Group in Chinese and the Senkakus in Japanese.

Around 500,000 teachers and students in nearly 600 schools observed a minute's silence to mark the anniversary, while a group of social

workers plastered the Japanese school in Hong Kong with banners denouncing alleged revival of Japanese militarism.

Hong Kong's largest political group, the Democratic Party, marked the day by distributing slogan stickers to taxi drivers denouncing Tokyo's claim to the islands.

Protests here have increased since the right-wing Japan Youth Federation erected a lighthouse on one of the islands in mid-July and Japan included the islands in its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

China has made formal diplomatic protests to Japan over the action and visits to the islands by Japanese nationalists.

On Tuesday night, a pro-China rally was attended by some 2,000 people while college students staged a candle-lit vigil outside the Japanese consulate.

Another vigil held Wednesday night drew about 4,000 people.

Several full page advertisements jointly sponsored by more than 350 groups in British-ruled Hong Kong and the neighbouring Portuguese enclave of Macau, denounced Japan for occupying the disputed islands.

The advertisements also demanded China and Taiwan protect Chinese sovereignty.

The Sing Tao daily, meanwhile, charged Japan with reviving militarism while raising its economic strength.

Yeltsin's daughter also hospitalised

MOSCOW (AFP) — The daughter of Russian President Boris Yeltsin is being treated in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital for a cold, joining her parents, both of whom are also hospitalised, a newspaper reported Wednesday. The weekly Argumenty i Fakty quoted unnamed well-informed sources saying that Tatyana Yeltsin had been admitted to the elite hospital, where the president is preparing for heart surgery and the first lady Naina Yeltsin is recovering from a kidney operation. A Kremlin spokesman said he had "no information" on the report. Naina Yeltsin had a kidney operation at the Central Clinical Hospital on Aug. 24 and is still recovering. Mr. Yeltsin himself has been undergoing tests there since Thursday and a heart bypass operation is planned for the end of September.

Swearing can be good for you — Researcher

GAINESVILLE, Florida (R) — Swearing is sometimes good for you and may reduce stress, a University of Florida researcher said. "We have been told all our lives that swearing is inappropriate, but there are actually times when it may be appropriate," said Kristy Beers, a doctoral candidate in linguistics, adding that it can relieve stress. Ms. Beers said swear words have become more acceptable in daily speech and noted the words that were taboo a decade or two ago are now heard on prime time television. People tend to take on other people's way of speaking when they are together, including swear words, she said. These words can also be used as a way to identify with a group of people. "In the back of everyone's mind we have rules, but what is more important than the rules is the company we are in. The company we are in overrides the environment and the rules," Ms. Beers said.

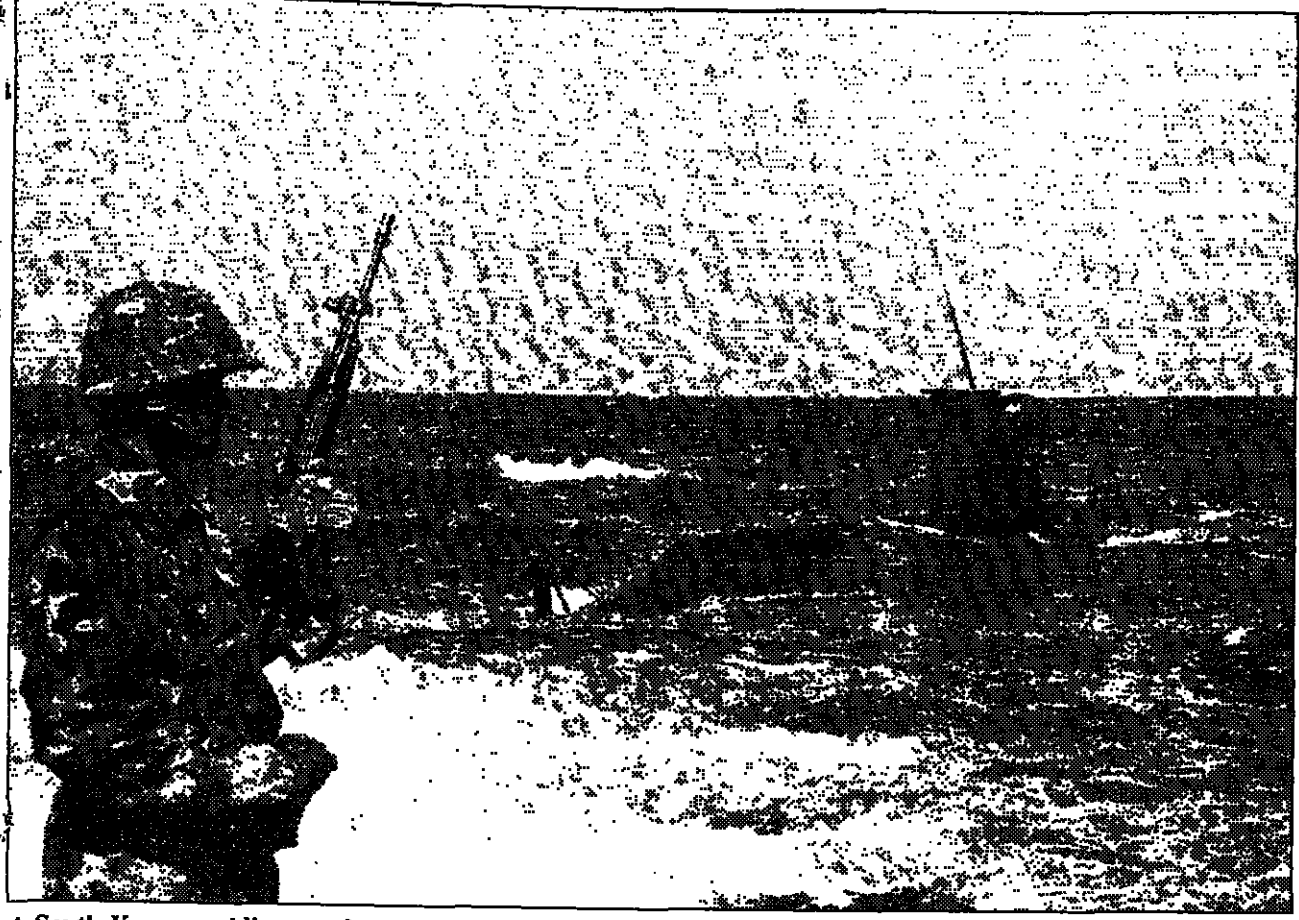
Canadian gets jail term after leaving panty trail

PENTICTON, British Columbia (R) — A man who stole women's underwear and then got caught after leaving a trail of lingerie was sentenced to six and a half months in jail, his lawyer said. Steven Qualter was arrested by police earlier this month after he was seen tossing bras, panties and other items from his car window while he was driving, lawyer Ian McAndrew said. Neighbours said they saw Mr. Qualter earlier stuffing the lingerie along with other clothing in his shirt at a home he had broken into. He was sentenced for the break-in as well as for another home robbery where he took lingerie. Mr. Qualter told the court it was all a joke, but the judge said the conviction was a serious one. The judge also suggested the defendant get psychological help.

Vietnam sperm bank fears shortage of 'capital'

HANOI (R) — Vietnam is planning to open its first sperm bank next year despite fears that donors may be hard to find. "We are afraid of a sperm shortage and that our bank will not have enough 'capital' to lend," Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, director of Ho Chi Minh City's Tu Du Maternity Hospital told the Thanh Nien newspaper. "Donors do not like their 'capital' being used without their knowledge," she said. "In France, the sperm donated is just enough for one-fifth of the demand. We hope the situation will be different in Vietnam." Ms. Phuong said about 7,000 infertile couples attended the Tu Du Hospital each year but the treatment available had proved successful for just 500.

Yeltsin's dauphin also hospitalized



A South Korean soldier stands guard near a submarine believed to have carried North Korean infiltrators at a beach in the east coast of South Korea Wednesday. Eleven suspected North Korean infiltrators put ashore in South Korea Wednesday were found dead and a 12th was captured alive during a massive air-and-sea search, officials said (Reuters photo)

Clinton plans to protect Utah wilderness area

CHICAGO (R) — Promoting his environmental record as a way to court voters, President Bill Clinton Wednesday planned to protect vast stretches of redrock canyons and plateaus in Utah from development.

President Clinton, who was to fly to Arizona early in the day, was to use the majestic panorama of the Grand Canyon to announce a decision already being hailed by environmentalists and denounced by those opposed to curbs on mining and other development.

"I fully expect the president will say ... that he does intend to proceed with the national monument designation for this very pristine and beautiful area," said a senior administration official, who was accompanying President Clinton on a four-day campaign swing through the midwest and west.

"There are some procedural questions about how to make that announcement that are still being wrestled with," the official said.

President Clinton was expected to protect the land from mining, road-building and other development in order, as one official said, "to preserve this very beautiful wilderness area for future generations of Americans."

Utah's congressional delegation opposes the idea, saying it would lock up resources including a tract of high-quality coal that Andalex Resources Corp., a Dutch-owned company — wants to mine.

Utah Governor Michael Leavitt, a Republican, met in Washington Tuesday with White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta to try and stop or modify the move, as did Representative William Orron, the only Democrat in the Utah delegation.

Utah's congressmen, all of whom oppose the proposal, have said they felt the White House should hold hearings and involve the public before determining the use of an area larger than Grand Canyon National Park.

Meanwhile, the U.S. presidential race took a new twist Tuesday when organisers proposed to exclude Ross Perot from campaign debates, and thus give Republican Senator Bob Dole the clear shot he wants at President Bill Clinton.

The proposal by the bipartisan commission on presidential debates drew cheers from Sen. Dole's camp, opposition from Clinton backers and fury from Perot partisans, who said they would sue and called this an establishment attempt to muzzle the cantankerous billionaire and Reform Party nominee.

The commission's recommendation, which could be vetoed by the Clinton campaign, was something of a bombshell because it would exclude a high-profile political maverick who cut a strong figure in the 1992 presidential debates and won nearly 19 per cent of the popular vote.

The panel said he should be excluded this year because, with only single-digit poll support at present, he no longer had "a real-

istic chance" of being elected U.S. president.

In Phoenix, Arizona, where he was pressing his campaign as the superior anti-crime candidate, Sen. Dole said he was all the more anxious to face Mr. Clinton in the televised forums as soon as possible and claimed he would carry Mr. Perot's banner.

"I want to reach out to the Perot supporters ... I think we (Republicans) are the Reform Party," said Sen. Dole, who is running from eight to 16 points behind Mr. Clinton in the latest nationwide preference polls.

Sen. Dole strategists wanted Mr. Perot out because they assume he would siphon off more Republican than Democratic votes — even though independent analysis casts some doubt on that view.

The Dole camp exulted in the news.

"It's become abundantly clear that one of two men will be in the White House next January ... and this makes it a hell of a lot more likely that it's going to be Bob Dole," said Dole adviser Nelson Warfield. "A one-on-one shot with (Clinton) gives us the opportunity to point out the glaring gaps between Mr. Clinton's centrist rhetoric and his liberal record."

Clinton advisers said, in effect, not so fast.

Mickey Kantor, the U.S. commerce secretary who leads the Clinton team in negotiating debate terms with the Dole forces, said his camp did not necessarily accept the proposal to exclude Perot and would put it on the bargaining table.

"We believe that (Perot's) participation is in the public interest," Mr. Kantor said as he arrived at a Washington law firm for a negotiating session with Dole representatives.

"Sixty-two per cent of the American people want him in the debates ... We're going to have a good full discussion and everything is on the table."

Mr. Clinton took a breezier approach, positioning himself as the easy-going front-runner happy to debate all comers including Perot — and leaving the infighting to underlings.

"I enjoyed having him in there in '92. I thought he made a valuable contribution ... I'm not afraid of any debate," Mr. Clinton said during a campaign stop in Westland, Michigan, the first stop in a four-day swing through the midwest and west.

In 1992, Mr. Perot took part in all three presidential campaign debates, peppering then-President George Bush, especially, with barbs on his alleged failures of leadership and portraying Mr. Bush as an exemplar of an establishment corrupted by special interest influence and money.

Polls showed many voters thought Mr. Perot won the first three-way debate. He eventually won a bigger slice of the popular vote than any third-party candidate since Teddy Roosevelt, 80 years earlier in 1912.

Yeltsin health fears grow

MOSCOW (R) — Concern over President Boris Yeltsin's health deepened Wednesday despite a statement by his top aide that he was still in charge in Russia.

Kremlin Chief-of-Staff Anatoly Chubais told the newspaper Izvestia that President Yeltsin was still taking major decisions during preparations for a heart bypass operation.

"As for the key questions, despite his illness the president is not only in touch but is taking decisions," Mr. Chubais said.

But the interview, published Wednesday, was conducted with the newspaper Friday evening, before doctors decided to extend the president's hospital stay.

Presidential Press Secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Tuesday that President Yeltsin was likely to stay in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital until the end of this week.

Ekho Moskvy radio station voiced its concern, saying the Kremlin had indicated when President Yeltsin, 65, went to hospital for tests last Friday that he would stay only for the weekend.

"There is no good news about the president's health," Ekho Moskvy said in a commentary.

President Yeltsin looked relaxed in brief television pictures of him meeting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Tuesday.

Mr. Chubais said Mr. Chernomyrdin and other officials were already taking some decisions which were previously taken by President Yeltsin.

Ekho Moskvy dismissed a suggestion by Mr. Yastrzhembsky that President Yeltsin had demonstrated his fitness by meeting Mr. Chernomyrdin for about an hour. It said Russia's problems were too big for the two men to cover them properly in just an hour.

Speculation is growing that President Yeltsin's extended stay in hospital was prompted by concern that his overall state of health is not good enough for him to have major heart surgery.

"It seems the doctors do not want to operate on him because of his general physical condition," a source in the opposition Communist Party told Reuters.

Mr. Chubais raised doubts about whether President Yeltsin would have the operation by saying more than a week ago that the Kremlin leader was likely to hand over his powers only briefly "if the operation which the president spoke about actually takes place."

President Yeltsin has said he would be able to work only in a passive way if he did not have surgery.

New Japanese political grouping registers with lower house

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's parliament officially recognised Wednesday a new group which aims to become the third force in domestic politics.

A lower house official said the new group, which plans to formally launch itself as the Democratic Party Sunday, was registered by 40 lawmakers including Yukio Hatoyama, who resigned from the ruling New Party Sakigake this month.

Among the other nine members of the so-called Democratic Party Establishment Committee were Mr. Hatoyama's younger brother Kunio, who has quit the opposition New Frontier Party (NFP), and three other former Sakigake members.

Also named were four deputies from the Citizen's League, including its leader Banri Kaieda, once with the populist New Japan Party of former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa which has since been absorbed into the NFP.

Sadao Yamahana, a former head of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the second-biggest party in the ruling coalition, was also among those named from the Citizen's League, the

official said.

The popular Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan, from Sakigake, is widely expected to lead the new party. He has said the group aims to field 200 candidates at elections likely to be held next month.

Supporters of the new party hope to see it challenge the rightwing Liberal Democratic Party, the senior partner in the current coalition, and the opposition New Frontier Party.

At least 51 deputies reportedly plan to join the new party.

Wrecked N. Korea submarine triggers massive manhunt

11 bodies found, 1 infiltrator captured

KANGNUNG, South Korea (AFP) — One North Korean agent was captured and the bodies of 11 other suspected agents found here by thousands of troops combing the area after the discovery of a wrecked North Korean submarine, the Defence Ministry said.

At dusk a ministry spokesman said police had captured one agent alive, who had given his name as Ri Kwang-Su and told them he was aboard the submarine.

Eleven bodies were found in the area, but the spokesman told AFP the military was still checking to confirm the identities of the bodies, and reports that the group had died in a mass suicide to avoid capture.

The massive search operation, backed by helicopters, fighter planes and naval patrol boats was launched after the submarine was found wrecked on rocks off the northeastern South Korean coast overnight, apparently on its way home after dropping armed infiltrators, the Defence Ministry said.

The Sang-O (Shark) class sub was the first North Korean combat submarine ever captured in the South.

South Korean Navy demolition teams, wearing gas masks and carrying flashlights entered the grey brown submarine, whose conning tower was seen partially blackened, possibly from fire, an AFP photographer said.

Other frogmen dived in the waters around the sub as naval ships manoeuvred in the area some 100 kilometres south of the demilitarised zone dividing the two Koreas and 145 kilometres east of Seoul.

An anti-submarine plane was seen scouring the area.

"The submarine is believed to have grounded on a rock while trying to drop armed infiltrators," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Ministry officials, who had first identified the vessel as a semi-submersible, then as a mini-sub, said later Wednesday that it was a 325-tonne "Sang-O," capable of carrying torpedos and 22 people.

A military spokesman denied an early-morning report of a shootout between the searchers and the North Koreans.

News reports said a villager in the area had been

beaten by one of two infiltrators he surprised hiding in a village pig sty. "He hit me in the chest and shoulder with an aluminium pole," Yonhap quoted the villager, Kim Jun-Shik as saying.

"They (North Koreans) are apparently armed with Czech-made machine guns and other equipment," Chung Hwa-Un, a senior joint chiefs of staff official told parliament.

Mr. Chung said South Korean troops had retrieved a machine gun, three AK-47 rifles, one M-16 rifle, ammunition, a life jacket, civilian clothes and North Korean chewing gum from the submarine and the beach.

A note reading "we'll achieve our tasks with death" was also found inside the submarine.

The South Korean ground troops, backed by sniffer dogs and helicopters, were concentrating on hillsides around Kangnung city, Defence Ministry officials said.

Television showed the submarine, one of some 50 mini-subs and semi-submersibles South Korea believes the North uses for infiltration drops, snagged on a rock in the sea some 20 metres from the beach.

Yonhap News Agency said a passing taxi driver had made the first report to police about an hour and a half after midnight.

"In the headlights of my car, I saw several men with cropped hair sitting on the roadside," the taxi driver told journalists.

"This is an apparent North Korean provocation and violation of the armistice agreement," General Kim Dong-Shin of the anti-espionage branch of the joint chiefs of staff told television.

In October last year a massive sweep was launched for two North Korean agents who infiltrated the west coast, resulting in one killed and one captured.

The same month two more agents were shot on the Southern perimeter of the demilitarised zone. The military said at the time that a third agent in the DMZ had escaped back to the North.

The new incident came as North and South Korea are proposing alternate peace plans for the peninsula to replace the existing armistice signed at the end of the Korean War of 1950-53.

Spiro Agnew, Nixon's vice president, dies at 77

BERLIN, Maryland (R) — Spiro Agnew, the sharp-tongued former U.S. vice-president who resigned in 1973 rather than face extortion charges, died in this quiet town near the Maryland coastal resort of Ocean City Tuesday.

He was 77.

Agnew died at Atlantic General Hospital and his body was taken to Ullrich Funeral Home, according to John Ullrich, the owner. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Agnew rose from relative obscurity when Richard Nixon unexpectedly named him his running mate in 1968, but his name became a household word when he resigned in 1973.

Although his career peaked over 20 years ago, Agnew is a perennial butt of U.S. popular culture jokes, including bumper stickers that seem to resurface during each presidential election season, proclaiming, "I'm for Spiro T. Agnew."

Agnew's bitter dismissal of his foes as "nattering nabobs of negativism" has also gone into the history books.

Twice elected on Nixon's ticket in 1968 and 1972, Agnew gave up his office on Oct. 10, 1973 rather than stand trial on charges that he had extorted money while serving as governor of Maryland in 1967 and 1968.

He quit, pleading "no contest" to one charge of income tax evasion, in exchange for a Justice Department agreement not to prosecute him on charges he demanded payoffs from companies bidding on contracts awarded by the state of Maryland. Justice Department said the payments continued during his four and one half years as vice-president.

Agnew was sentenced to three years probation and fined \$10,000.

Ten years after he left office, Agnew bowed to a state court order and repaid Maryland \$268,482 to cover the kickbacks. The court determined, in a civil suit, that he had accepted \$147,500 in illegal payments and ordered him to repay that plus more than \$120,000 in interest.



Spiro Agnew, vice-president under President Richard Nixon from 1969 until his resignation in 1973, died at Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin Tuesday (Reuters photo)

from President Nixon, who was himself fending off allegations of criminal misconduct for obstructing the investigation of the Watergate scandal. Nixon himself resigned under threat of impeachment less than one year after Agnew's departure.

In the years after his resignation, Agnew went into business as an international-trade consultant, representing U.S. firms doing business in Arab nations.

He also dabbled as an author, turning out The Canfield Decision, a pulp novel about a vice-president's ambitions for the presidency, and a memoir in which he gave up his office partly out of fear Nixon would have had him assassinated if he tried to hang on.

The son of a Greek immigrant father, who shortened his name from Anagnostopoulos, Agnew was born on Nov. 9, 1918, in Baltimore.

He served in the U.S. army during World War II, went on to earn a law degree, and won the Maryland governorship in 1966.

Two years later Nixon tapped him as his vice-presidential running mate, and Agnew quickly grabbed headlines with his cutting tongue and verbal gaffes, such as his proclamation that "if you've seen one sium, you've seen them all."

He hit the news media, civil rights leaders and Vietnam War protesters, dismissing his foes as "nattering nabobs of negativism" and "an effete corps of impudent snobs."

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Elfinor, a son and three daughters.

Radiation incidents underscore Chernobyl problem

KIEV (R) — Neutron radiation readings rose inside the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station's ruined fourth reactor, focusing fresh attention on the cracking structure 10 years after the world's biggest nuclear disaster.

Officials at the station, 140 kilometres north of Kiev, said Tuesday that recorded neutron activity and radiation levels, had climbed sharply twice in the past week inside the steel and concrete "sarcophagus" surrounding the reactor.

Ukraine's nuclear authority set up a commission to investigate whether the incidents on Sept. 12 and 16, the third such set in the past decade, could lead to uncontrollable chain reactions.

"The latest increases were temporary. No final conclusions were drawn from the earlier instances whether a chain reaction had been started," Valentyn Kupny, in charge of the sarcophagus, said by telephone.

"Everything that is inside has not been fully studied or understood. We do not have a sufficiently complete control system."

If a chain reaction was produced, he said, "it would not be an explosion or some huge noisy process. But it could involve a big release of radiation into the atmosphere."

Ukrainian officials say rebuilding the sarcophagus is the top priority in making safe and closing down the Chernobyl plant, where two reactors still produce five per cent of the country's electricity.

President Leonid Kuchma has promised to close the two reactors still functioning at Chernobyl by the year 2000, but officials say they cannot meet the deadline unless the West

begins providing some of the more than \$3 billion it has agreed to provide in aid and loans.

Experts estimate that between 90 and 160 tonnes of mangled fuel remain inside the sarcophagus, hurriedly erected after the reactor exploded on April 26, 1986, sending radioactivity over most of Europe.

About 1,000 square metres of cracks remain on the surface despite repeated campaigns to patch them up.

"I do not like what is happening with Chernobyl. We are not talking about building new reactors but safety at Chernobyl itself and the radioactive material lying there," Ukraine's top security official Volodymyr Horbulin said last week.

"There is no agreement among Western financial institutions about how to finance matters."

A Franco-British plan to build a new sarcophagus, estimated to cost \$1.2 billion, was first made public three years ago but no steps have yet been taken to build it.

Mr. Kupny said the project was a "dead letter" with no financing. The winner of a new tender to build a cheaper version is to be announced next month.

Jean-Luc Milhem, a specialist with France's Institute for Nuclear Protection and Safety, told Reuters it was not clear whether the increased readings posed a long-term danger.

"This could be indeed due to a resumption of a chain reaction or it could simply be an equipment malfunction," said Mr. Milhem, who was visiting Ukraine to help implement Western projects for Chernobyl's closure.

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Troubled birthday

THE 51ST session of the U.N. General Assembly started on Tuesday amid renewed controversies about the world body's efficiency and effectiveness. Among the issues that will figure high in the deliberations of the organisation this year will be the appointment of a secretary general. Washington is on record as opposing a new term for incumbent Secretary General Boutros Ghali. Mr. Ghali locked horns with Washington over many issues including the reforms within the U.N. entailing cost cutting across the board, that the U.S. makes a condition for paying huge arrears to the organisation. The secretary general had also ruffled few feathers over his handling of the Bosnian conflict when the U.N. was calling most of the shots. It was during that period, that preceded North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) direct assumption of military operations against the Bosnian Serbs, that Srebrenica, which was declared by the U.N. as a safe haven, had fallen to the Serbs. The sudden fall of the city led to the butchering of thousands of fleeing Muslims at the hands of the invading Serbs. The capture of Srebrenica became a turning point in the developments in Bosnia and signalled the ending of the U.N. direct responsibility in the war-torn country. Many observers had attributed the fall of Srebrenica to the reluctance of the U.N. to give a timely green light for an effective military operation by NATO forces against the Serbs. NATO forces were not then able to make a move without the agreement of the U.N.

The U.N. is actually beset by many other problems over and above the obvious issues. For one thing, the U.N. Security Council, ostensibly responsible for international peace and security, has ceased to function effectively in a fair and balanced manner. Double standards have become the mainstay of the council especially in the wake of the end of the cold war and the emergence of the U.S. as the only superpower. That led Washington to repeatedly bypass the U.N. making far-reaching decisions affecting regional peace and security. The U.N. in recent years saw Russia excluding the international community from the Chechen conflict even though the U.N. has the power to pronounce itself on issues affecting collective human rights even when they occur within a sovereign country.

For us in the Middle East, though, there is an expectation that this year's session of the General Assembly will spur some action on the stalemated peace process. No doubt there will be calls for an international intervention to save the peace negotiation on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese fronts from additional derailment. Whether the ensuing debate on the Middle East or other regional issues would remain mere rhetorical is yet to be seen. We have every right, however, to anticipate a real and effective international scrutiny of all international and regional issues. Otherwise the image of the international organisation would be further eroded.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN LIGHT of the recent American missile attacks on Iraq and in the face of renewed American threats against Baghdad, the Arab League and the Arab countries have voiced their denunciation of all attempts at tampering with Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, said Ahmad Al Miskeh, a writer for Al Ra'i. By now, the Arab regimes have realised the real intentions of the United States, which has been escalating tension in their region, and so they decided to adopt a collective stand, at least in theory, vis-à-vis the recent developments in Iraq, according to the writer. It is common knowledge that Bill Clinton is pursuing his hostile actions against Iraq in order to secure support for his reelection as president in November, and to show America victorious in its conflict with other states which Washington claims are threatening U.S. national interests, noted the writer. But Mr. Clinton's moves have been confronted by other states, like France, Russia and China which also have their own interests in Iraq and the Arab region, he added. What is required from the Arab countries, said the writer, is unity of rank and solidarity which can prevent further U.S. aggression on Iraq and ensure that their region remains safe from any acts of unrest and instability that have been plaguing the Middle East for decades.

ARAB CITIZENS are worried about the fate of the peace process in light of the present Israeli government's hardline position regarding the redeployment in Palestinian lands, the Jewish settlements programme and Israel's declared intention to maintain its hold on all the occupied Arab territories, said Taher Adwan. The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that thanks to the Syrian steadfast position in dealing with Israel, the Palestinian are able to maintain their persistent demands to pursue their efforts with greater confidence to regain their legitimate rights. Had Syria succumbed to Israel's conditions and accepted a separate peace, the Palestinians would have never been able to show their present steadfastness, said the writer. Therefore, the Palestine National Authority is called on to coordinate its position more closely with that of Damascus in the course of joint action aimed at regaining both the Palestinian and Syrian rights, he urged. Joint Syrian-Palestinian action in this direction, he added, will enhance the spirit of the Cairo Arab summit and thwart Mr. Netanyahu's evil machinations.

The View from Academia

Nabil and Hisham and the theatrical excellence

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

FOR A long time, people (laymen as well as experts in the field) have been speaking of the "crisis" of the Jordanian theatre. By "crisis," they have basically meant the scarcity or absence of works which may attract enough audience to the theatre. They have disagreed on the causes, some blaming the public for not being curious enough, serious enough, and sophisticated enough, and others blaming the theatre itself for being either unchallenging, shallow and silly or ambiguous, inscrutable and detached from the world.

Recently, however, the picture has changed dramatically. Several things have happened in the realm of the Jordanian theatre, foremost among which is the emergence of the Nabil and Hisham (Amal should also be added) theatre. The group is truly distinguished in many ways and deserves all the support it can get.

Like some (many) people, I hesitated for some time before deciding to attend and see what the play was like. I had been hearing good things about it from those whose opinion I did not much trust, and those I did. I hesitated because the last thing I wanted was to watch a play (like many plays I have had the misfortune of attending or watching on TV) in which a group of people jumped up and down maniacally, screamed at the top of their lungs, and spoke in a loud, vulgar manner, in a desperate, pathetic attempt to make you laugh.

I have attended two performances by Nabil and Hisham so far, and I have not only been pleasantly surprised but have enjoyed them thoroughly. Nabil and Hisham (and the talented Amal) have made a visible (dramatic even) impact on the Jordanian theatre: not only do they attract audiences in large numbers they also have a lot to offer. By many standards, they are a success.

They are far from perfect, to be sure. The secret of their success, however, lies (among other things) in the following:

1. Generically, what you watch is excellent comedy. The word "comedy" is to be underscored here. It is defined by

the noted critic and scholar M.H. Abrams as a "work in which the materials are selected and managed primarily in order to interest and amuse us." Several terms are crucial in this definition. The first are "selected" and "managed." Nabil and Hisham are masterful "selectors" and "managers" of the incidents, situations, characters and themes they deal with. Their plays are also truly "interesting" and "amusing."

In this respect, Nabil and Hisham stand in sharp contrast to much of what we have locally and at the pan-Arab level. There is some good comedy to be sure — from the days of the late Adel Kheiri and Mary Munib to, presently, Adel Imam and Dureid Lahham. But such excellent comedians are quite scarce. Most of what is presented to us through the theatre and TV as "comedy" is in fact silly, mindless farce — "habal," as we say in Arabic. The characters are clowns, the text is superficial and the voices are deafening.

2. Most of Nabil's and Hisham's works can be considered, generically again, as satiric comedies. According to M.H. Abrams, satiric comedy "ridicules political policies or philosophic doctrines, or else attacks the disorders of society by making ridiculous the violators of its standards of morals and manners." The point to emphasise here is that Nabil and Hisham are working within a well-defined dramatic genre (satiric comedy) whose components they understand very well and whose requirements they are up to.

In other words, there is a point behind much of their satire. It may be that once in a while they push something a little too far, and they are a bit unfair. But on the whole, they hit the nail on the head. We have many social ills, problems and disturbing phenomena, and these have to be singled out, exposed and made known. The ultimate aim of comedy and satire, and this is true in the case of Nabil and Hisham, is not cynicism but education. There can be no reform and no positive change without exposition of ills, wrongs, and negative practices. Nabil's and Hisham's is an educational theatre.

Two things have to be stressed here, however. The first is that Nabil and Hisham address many themes courageously — be it when they talk about normalisation, Arab-Arab relations, or the various social taboos. On their stage, we see our consciousness and unconsciousness in action. Courage in reform is essential. The second is that even though their plays are didactic, they are not overly so. They present the problem through a situation or hint at something in passing and they leave a great deal to the imagination of the spectator. There are times when they speak directly about something, but this is quite acceptable.

3. What Nabil and Hisham present has the amazing advantage of addressing people across the wide social spectrum: the man in the street, the carpenter, the mechanic, the grandmother enjoy, appreciate and understand; and the intellectual, the educated and the scholar enjoy, appreciate, and understand. I would argue that the more well-read and experienced one is, the more appreciative he or she will be. I personally applaud their subtlety, depth and richness of presentation.

4. The characters they impersonate, from the top of the social ladder to the bottom, are extremely believable and convincing — true to life. Take the character of the female villager which Amal impersonates. It is true to its original, and perhaps even better, in many ways; the accent, the diction, the gestures.

The failure of many of our local plays is due in large part to the characters they present on the stage: they are exaggerated, made up and fake. They do not speak the way we speak or behave the way we behave. I do not think that the villagers in our society are vulgar, simple-minded, loud and stupid.

Nabil and Hisham are a positive phenomenon. They have redeemed our theatre and they deserve to be applauded. We wish them more development, more evolution and more success.

Padania, Wallobrux and Lottingen

By Gwynne Dyer

"IT'S A revolutionary project," said Roberto Maroni, once Italy's interior minister and now head of the Padania Liberation Committee. "The difference is that the (Northern) League is now the revolutionary party, not the Communists."

Just the name "Northern League" sets the fascist alarm bells ringing in anyone alert to the linguistic nuances of Europe's dreadful 20th-century history; and League boss Umberto Bossi's rallies live up to the image — flags and banners, "Green Shirts" guarding the leader, ranting, paranoid rhetoric, the lot.

"He shouts and screams like Mussolini," said an onlooker — but Bossi's aim is not to take Italy over. He wants to break it up, and a series of mass rallies last week culminating in a "declaration of independence" in Camp San Stefano in Venice on Sept. 15 was designed to give credibility to the idea of a break-away state taking in all of the richer, northern half of Italy.

"Padania", the new country would be called, after the

valley of the Po River that runs east across the northern Italian heartland. Bossi's Padanian republic would extend 100 kilometres from Rome, it would have 32 million people — and they would have the highest per capita income in Europe.

This is the key distinction between the old Communist revolutionaries and outfits like the Northern League. The Communists promised to end the distinction between rich and poor. The new regionalist parties that are proliferating across Europe are more often attempts by the rich to get away from the poor entirely — by seceding from their existing countries.

The two richest parts of Spain, Catalonia and Majorca, both nourish separatist parties whose appeal is at least as much to the voters' wallets as to their local nationalisms.

A Dutch member of parliament, Thijs Woeltgens, suggested two weeks ago that the Netherlands merge with the neighbouring German state of North Rhine-Westphalia to form a new state in the area once occupied by the forgotten kingdom of Lottingen. This

ultra-rich region of 31 million people would then have huge leverage over the policies of Germany and the European Union.

And in Belgium last week, four French-speaking professors issued a manifesto demanding that the country be broken up into its French and Flemish-speaking halves. At first glance this seems counter-productive, since Wallonia, the French part of Belgium, is poorer than Flanders. But the "trick" was... that "Wallobrux", as the secessionists named their new creation, would also inherit the largely French-speaking city of Brussels (Bruxelles, in French), which contains a large share of the country's wealth.

Even in this age when the crudest economism drives policy, it is still rare for a separatist movement to run on purely economic motives. It is usually about ethnicity, religion, language and history. Kashmiris, Kurds and Eritreans barely mention economics when they make their case for independence.

Even Quebec separatists, though compelled by the spirit of the age to make a

(highly implausible) argument that independence from Canada would boost Quebec's economy, are manifestly driven by old-fashioned ethnic and linguistic grudges. Basque, Corsican and other European separatist movements do not even bother about economics.

But "Padania" has no ethnic, linguistic or historical basis. Those seeking to dismantle the 126-year-old Italian state simply want to stop subsidising their poorer, southern fellow-citizens, who without large subsidies from the north would have a standard of living comparable to that of Portugal or Greece.

"Lottingen" is an even more extreme anomaly, since it proposes submerging one established nationality, that of the Dutch, in another purely for economic gain. And "Wallobrux", though it is defined in linguistic terms, is really mostly about money too.

What unites these bizarre projects is the fact that they are all in Europe. Perhaps that explains them as well: money is generally a coward, but the well-padded economic separatists of

Europe know that even if they got their wish, they would still be contained within the safety of the European Union. So the phenomenon is unlikely to spread to the rest of the world.

Can it succeed even in Europe? Probably not in countries where the authority and reputation of the state is still intact — which dooms the notion of "Lottingen" to early extinction — but Italy and Belgium are the walking wounded of European states.

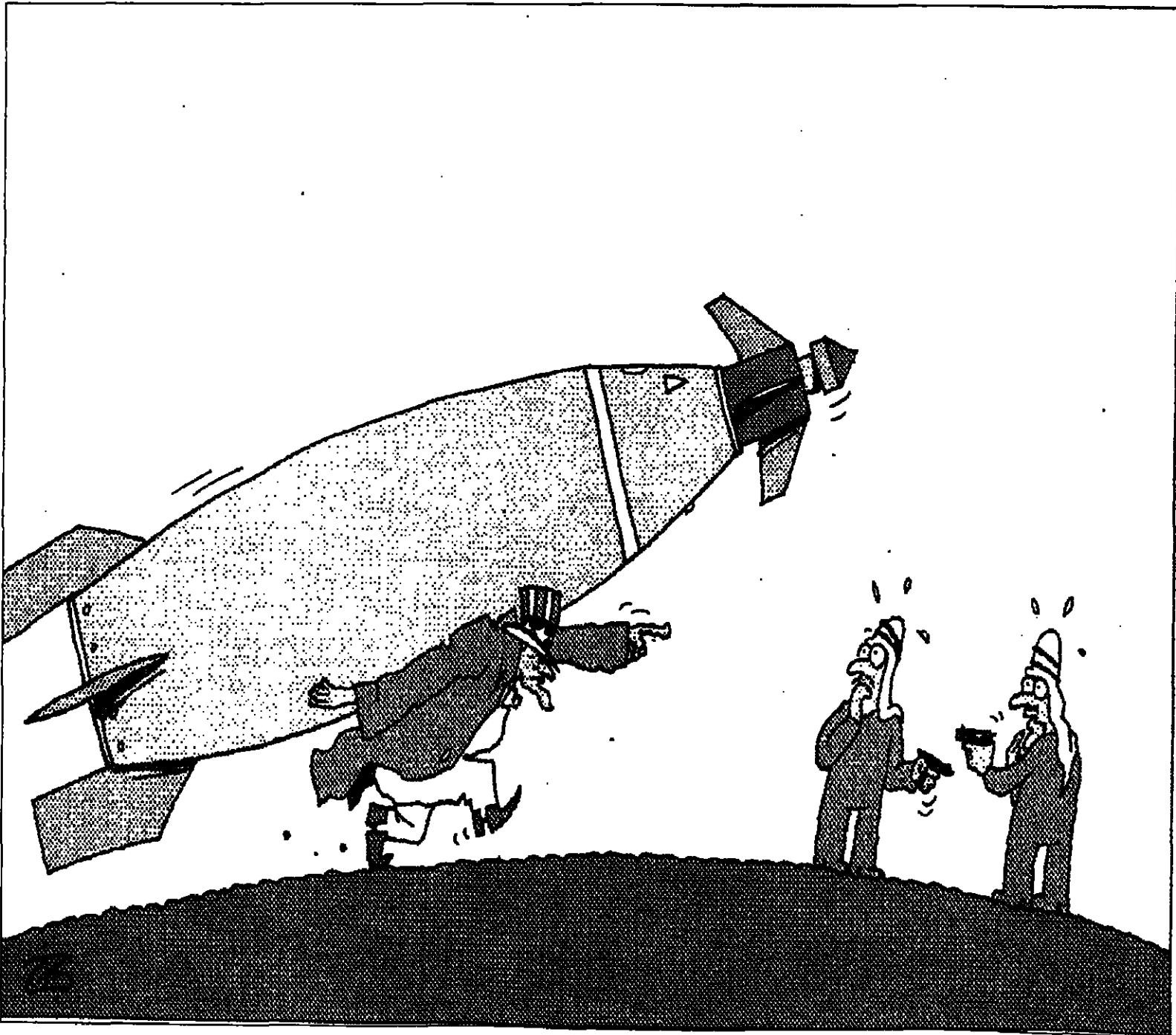
Belgium was formed since 1830 because that suited the needs of the great powers, but it has never roused much enthusiasm among its own citizens. ("Small country, small-minded people," remarked a 19th-century Belgian king, Leopold II). Recent revelations about the corruption and incompetence of the authorities, ranging from the assassination of a deputy prime minister to the discovery of a paedophile ring, guarantee the separatists an attentive audience.

In Italy, the state is even weaker. The end of the cold war broke the domestic

deadlock that had frozen the Italian Communists out of power for 40 years at the price of effective one-party rule by the Christian Democrats and their allies. Soon after, revelations about forty years of corruption began to spill into the public view, and the old parties imploded.

Italian politics is now wide open for the rise of new parties that project an air of confidence and competence. The Northern League got only 20 per cent of the vote in northern Italy in the last election, but it has already brought down one government in Rome. Umberto Bossi's stage-managed declaration of Padanian independence last Sunday was pure theatre, but given the current situation in Italy, his influence is bound to grow.

Europe, with 52 countries, has now drawn ahead of Africa's mere 51. (All the rest of the world has only 80-odd). But the Europeans are not resting on their laurels. As somebody once observed: "Big bugs have little bugs upon their backs to bite them and little bugs have littler bugs. So on, ad infinitum."



LETTERS

Step by step

To the Editor:

FOLLOWING UP on a recent letter suggesting that Jordanian pedestrians need to learn to fly, wouldn't it be nice if the Jordan Times and the Arabic language newspapers ran a series of articles on the highway code and rules of the road.

Dermot Keegan,
P. O. Box 441,
Sweilch, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, September 19, 1996 **A**

Society on the Move

Amman assignment, round 2

Two career diplomats return to Amman as summer nears its end, but this time as ambassadors. Already arrived is Peter Mende who takes up his assignment as ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. The 62-year-old Mr. Mende joined the foreign service in 1964 and is familiar with a Jordan under strain as he served at the embassy in Amman from 1969 to 1971. A lawyer, Mr. Mende was assigned to his country's embassies in Paris, Cairo, and Washington. His first ambassadorial post was to Khartoum in 1993. The tenure in Sudan completed. Peter Mende and his wife Margret are now setting up house once again in Amman. The Mende's have three adult daughters, all busy in their respective professions back in Germany but expected to make several visits to Jordan on holidays.



HAIL THE INDUSTRIOUS: Two other events announced together last week were Royal Decrees bestowing medals on two long-time officers from two sides of the industrial sector. From the public side, Assistant Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Salim Bani Hani was awarded the Istiklal Medal of the Third Order. Mr. Bani Hani was at a meeting in Cairo last week, thus attempts to get some general background on how long Mr. Bani Hani has been with the ministry, what his area of expertise is and how old he is, were met with the unfortunate civil servant response "it's a secret." Ah... the proverbial government secret. Anyway, we simply asked his superior, Secretary General Mohammad Smadi. Dr. Smadi, who commented that Mr. Bani Hani was recognised for his long years of contributions to the ministry, said that his junior colleague has been with the ministry for about two decades and has held his current position, as assistant secretary general for five to six years.

STAR QUALITY: Over at the Amman Chamber of Industry, folks were more candid. Director General Walid Hashem Khatib was awarded the Kawkab Medal of the Third Order in recognition of distinct and devoted services in promoting the industry and economy of Jordan. Mr. Khatib can surely be considered a founder of the chamber, having worked there since its establishment in 1962. He earned his masters in business administration in the U.S. and worked as a correspondent for *Gumhouria*, the Egyptian daily. He has been a member of the board of the Social Security Corporation as well as the Jordan Press Foundation, the owners of *Al Ra'i* and the *Jordan Times*. The 58-year-old Mr. Khatib, has been the Amman Chamber of Industry's director general for the last four years. He is married and has four children. Worth mentioning — and not a secret — is that among his stated recreational interests is driving. With the road situation such as it, that penchant can, perhaps, be considered admirable.

FELLOW FANFARE: Academic awards made news this week also with the 50th anniversary of Fulbright Exchange Programme (see item page 7). At the residence of U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan 210 guests attended a reception marking the occasion. Most of the revellers represented former Jordanian Fulbright scholars and students who were awarded grants during the last 20 years. Also among the attendees were former recipients of Humbert H. Humphrey and Dwight D. Eisenhower fellowships.

Celebrating the event too were HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, cultural secretary to His Majesty King Hussein, all the presidents of the country's public and private universities and several heads of research institutions. Remarks by the ambassador as well as the Director of the Binational Fulbright Commission in Amman, Alain McNamara, commemorating half a century of academic cooperation, centred on the goal of the programme to promote better understanding between the U.S. and other nations through the exchange of students and scholars. Messrs. Egan and McNamara recognised the efforts of the Binational Commission and the volunteer board, whose members help to advance its aims, all the other institutions that have supported the programme and a special recognition for the incoming class of American Fulbright scholars and students to Jordan. There to raise a glass to the next 50 years were former Fulbrighters Dureid Mahasneh, president of the Jordan Valley Authority, Ahmad Ziadat, vice dean of the Faculty of Law at University of Jordan, Mohammad Awad, dean of graduate studies at Yarmouk University, and Issa Mousa, a professor of journalism at Yarmouk University and currently seconded to the Institute of Diplomacy.



Majida Roumi

NIGHT OF SUNRISE: Other 50th anniversaries being commemorated this year are that of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and InterContinental Hotels and Resorts, both of which have joined forces to raise funds for UNICEF's work worldwide. As we reported earlier, a gala benefit dinner was being prepared, and all that was pending was a date convenient for Lebanese vocalist Majida Roumi to lend her talents to the occasion. Well the date has been set for Thursday, September 26, with dinner by the InterContinental pool. The "Laylat Shourouk," as it is being called, will be held under the patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

MORE THAN JUST A FRIENDSHIP: Jordan and Lebanon are bonding on social and cultural levels. The recently established Jordanian-Lebanese League is planning a trip to Lebanon on October 24 to look at "Lebanon. Past and Future." On the itinerary of the five-day-four-night journey, is a visit to the centre of Beirut where several layers of civilizations have been uncovered and where too, reconstruction of a capital ravaged civil strife is seeking to mend a nation. The joint league, whose honorary president is HRH Ghida Talal and whose President is

Senator Leila Sharaf, is inviting its own members (now numbering about 180 couples) as well as American University of Beirut and Lebanese American University alumni, members of Friends of Archaeology and interested persons from the diplomatic, foreign and local communities to sign up for the historic/archaeological adventure. The members of the league's board are Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan William Habib (an honorary and permanent membership for the resident Lebanese envoy) Senator Kamal Shaer (vice president, Foud Abu Hamdan (secretary), Emil Haddad (treasurer), Samia Mango (responsible for social activities) and Antoine Sousa (responsible for cultural affairs). Equally illustrious are board members Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kawar, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali, former Minister of State and Information Ibrahim Izidine and Dr. Sami Halaby. Membership in this Arab league appears to be a matter of "natural" selection.

Jennifer Hamarneh

EXPERT IN THE HOI-POLLOI: From Canada, Michael James Molloy will arrive quite practiced in the area of citizenship, immigration and refugee affairs. Taking up his first ambassadorial post in Amman, Mr. Molloy (52) has served as a member of the Canadian Delegation to the Refugee Working Group of the multilateral peace process from 1992 until his assignment to Jordan. His foreign service career began in 1968, and early on he was posted to Canada's embassies in Tokyo and Beirut as third secretary. Starting in 1976 he worked in refugee affairs, first in Ottawa then at the permanent mission of Canada in Geneva. Mr. Molloy later served as counsellor in Amman (84-85), Damascus (85-86) and in Nairobi (86-89) at the Canadian High Commission. In 1989 he returned to Ottawa to continue on his mission in refugee affairs until his appointment as ambassador to Jordan. Expected to arrive in early October with his wife, Mr. Molloy succeeds Michel de Salaberry who was due to head for his new post in Tehran today. The Molloy's also have three children.

Dole beats Clinton in race for laughs

By Helen O'Neill
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bob Dole's age might be slowing him down in the presidential polls but it's revving up the late night TV comedy circuit.

In the race for laughs, the Republican presidential contender is way ahead, getting skewered by talk show hosts nearly twice as often as U.S. President Bill Clinton.

And, with 40 per cent of Americans under 30 saying they regularly get their political information from late night television, it's not something the candidates can shrug off lightly.

Night after night a barrage of one-liners hammer Sen. Dole, portraying — on good days — a grumpy old man, struggling to crawl out of the Stone Age.

"To appear more presidential, he's been smoking pot and nailing hookers," cracked David Letterman during a recent "top ten" list of "signs that Dole is getting desperate."

Jay Leno talks about a new Dole biography called "Bob Dole: The Second 100 Years," and Conan O'Brien quips that the 73-year-old Dole is so optimistic he

"always sees the glass of Metamucil (diarrhoea medicine) half-full."

Not that the comedians are any kinder to Mr. Clinton. If anything, the caricatures of the president are more pointed, depicting a philandering conniver with a weight problem.

O'Brien did an imaginary interview with a blustering, chip-chomping president on the day his adviser Dick Morris resigned in a sex scandal — an incident gleefully milked by all the late night jokers.

If Mr. Clinton had known Mr. Morris had a prostitute in his hotel room during phone conversations, Leno bellows, "he would have hung up and driven right over."

The broadcast buffoonery can be both tough and topical.

The day after Ross Perot announced his Reform Party running mate — economist Pat Choate, a political novice — late-night TV teed off on the pick that was made after established politicians turned down the Texan.

"Ross said Pat had all three criteria he was looking for in a vice president: He was home. He answered the phone. He said 'yes,'" Leno



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole arrives at Phoenix Sky Harbour International Airport Tuesday (Reuter photo)

laughed Wednesday night.

Letterman took aim the same night, too: "Now for those of you who don't know what an economist is," he said, "think accountant — without all the charisma and all the thrill-

seeking excitement."

Sen. Dole and Mr. Clinton make bigger targets, however. And in the sheer number of jokes told, the president gets off easier than his main rival.

According to the Centre

for Media and Public Affairs, a non-partisan research group, Leno, O'Brien and Letterman lobbed 449 barbs at Sen. Dole this year through July compared to 294 at Mr. Clinton.

Texas vampire chasing Dracula in fame stakes

By Jodi Bizar
Reuter

EL PASO, Texas — In the world of vampires, only Dracula is bigger than Cayne Presley.

The Texas blood-sucker who recently disclosed her habit of drinking human and animal blood has become an overnight sensation, unable to drive down the streets in this dusty border city without people honking, waving or staring.

Boxes of mail arrive at her door each day while the phone rings constantly from reporters calling from Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico, France, England and Aus-

tralia, all begging for interviews.

"I really wasn't expecting this," said Ms. Presley, a 38-year-old night security guard who first began drinking blood when she was nine. "I guess I'm a star, or a freak."

Ms. Presley's sudden stardom came after she gave an interview to an author writing a non-fiction book about vampires in the United States and titled *Something In The Blood*. A follow-up interview with Reuters sparked a flood of interest in her blood-sucking lifestyle.

"They all want to know if I sleep in a coffin and if I have fangs," Ms. Presley

said. She said she drinks one or two glasses of blood a day, sometimes offering human donors sex in return for their blood or else turning to a local butcher who gives her cow blood.

Although Ms. Presley does not have fangs, some have told her she does look a little like a vampire because she's tall, thin and pale with jet-black hair. She also always dresses in black and wears deep red lipstick.

For years, Ms. Presley said she was ashamed of her hunger for blood and hid the habit from everyone but the closest of her friends. Then one day a former boyfriend

blabbed about Ms. Presley's thirst to all her friends and co-workers. Some were disgusted or scared but others took it in stride.

Ms. Presley said she was not bothered by the current blaze of publicity. "I want to get the word out. We're not blood-thirsty killers. We're just blood thirsty."

She said she has received mail from "fans" interested in becoming vampires or offering themselves as donors.

"That's good because I was down to just one donor," Ms. Presley said, explaining that she pricks a donor on the inside of the arm and then sucks gently

so as not to collapse a vein. "It's great, better than sex, more intimate. You're trusting each other with your lives. And not just for me. People get addicted to me (drinking their blood)," she said.

But not all of Ms. Presley's mail is from fans. She received at least one letter from an Ohio man pledging to come to her home and drive a stake through her heart. She brazenly wrote him back to "come and try."

Ms. Presley is one of an estimated 8,000 vampires in the United States, according to experts interviewed in *Something In The Blood*.



High fashion in knitwear

THIS SORBET-PINK cropped jacket and mini-skirt by leading British knitwear designer Cecile Jeffrey exemplifies her theory about yarn as a fashion medium. She considers that its natural components and versatility mean it can reflect both fashion elements and textile structure.

This two-piece suit displayed at the recent London Fashion Week reflects

the theme of her autumn/winter '96 collection—softly structured designs in muted shades such as peppermint, vanilla and indigo.

Cecile Jeffrey, who is also known in the fashion world for her eclectic range of menswear, includes top London stores and retailers in America and Japan among her client list — London Press Service.

CORRECTION

In the book review entitled "A comprehensive work on Jordan's heritage" in the last, Sept. 12, issue of the Weekender, the reviewer's Name, Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, was inadvertently dropped. The Jordan Times regrets this error.

Those magnificent flying men

By Jean-Claude Elias

LET'S FORGET, for this week at least, all the philosophical considerations that have filled this space for the last few weeks, like the future of Information Technology, the social impact of PC addiction and others.

Let's chip-talk about a more down-to-earth subject. Actually it is more like a high-in-the-sky topic. To call it by its name, this week's column is about PC-based Flight Simulation (FS) software.

What better machine to think of than a PC in order to design a Flight Simulation programme? The keyboard or a joystick, the Screen and the powerful calculation possibility of small computers make it an ideal set for such a project.

The very first FS worth mentioning was Microsoft Flight Simulator. Launched a few years ago, it is still the most widely used FS software and has allowed thousands of PC aficionados to learn the principles of flying.

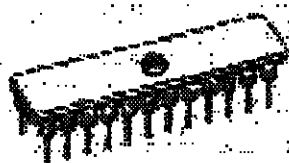
The degree of realism of the early PC-based FS was poor to average. However even the first programmes included features like automatic coordination, take off, landing, comprehensive instrumentation — altimeter, engine rpm, gear up, gear down, lights, heater, maps, routes, and many others. The simulation was close enough to reality and very few people could make a successful landing from the very first attempt. Those clever enough to "land" on the deck of the famous Nimitz aircraft carrier will tell you that it is a truly fantastic experience and how thrilled they were the first time they "did it."

Far from being a simple computer game, FS needs preparation, study and practice. Microsoft then issued improved versions of the software with clearer screens and a choice of landscapes or scenery to choose from: Paris, Chicago, etc. The new versions automatically benefited from the faster computers that kept appearing and that keep appearing today. With a Pentium PC, controls became smoother and flying more enjoyable overall.

Naturally other software publishers followed Microsoft and we have now on the market many FS programmes with a wide choice of aircrafts whether civil or military. Some SF titles propose amazing dogfights between military jet fighters. EF2000 Euro Fighter for example comes on a CD-ROM, like most new programmes, and a heavy user manual to frighten the bravest.

However all the above FS lack one essential ingredient: Real scenery. Indeed they all display landscapes (mountains, seas, etc.) that are represented with computer graphics instead of actual photographs. This hardly satisfies demanding pilots.

chip talk



Recently a new programme was released, this time with real images, taken with actual video cameras and stored on the CD. Flight Unlimited is exceptional in all aspects and has received rave reviews in major PC publications. Not only one has the impression of flying over natural mountains (you start in Vermont, USA) but also the sound one hears also is a real recording. Choose the glider for instance and listen to the beautiful sound of the air on which you are sailing — no engine noise at all. Move directly towards the sun and you'll be gradually blinded by its light — the PC monitor slowly turns to bright white — like in real flight.

Flight Unlimited is a major step towards the large size flight simulators that airlines use to train pilots. It is a step but no more. If you are really demanding, you would complain about certain weaknesses in the scenery: When you get too close to a point on Earth or when you crash, you're back to computer graphics — a bit disappointing. These limitations come from the fact that one CD-ROM cannot possibly hold all the data that would be necessary for fully realistic flight effects, scenery and sound.

Having spoken to an instructor at Royal Jordanian, he confirmed what I suspected: These amazing PC-based FS programmes are actually used to give pilots their first notions of flying. When one hour of training costs about \$200 on a large size, professional flight simulator and \$500 on an actual airliner like the Airbus, one can immediately see the advantage of starting on a PC. Flight Unlimited is sold for \$70 in Europe and the USA.

What will the next step be? Surely not a moving seat and rotating room like the flight simulators at RJ. Software designers however have shown they can always surprise us. The next generation — commercially available in Jordan by the end of year — of Pentium Pro PC computers combined with other technical improvement on the CD-ROM side may tremendously help them achieve such a feat one more time.

On the right track

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Because I believe that the future holds all the frantically sought after solutions to our present problems, I have decided to share with you, dear readers, a certain bit of futuristic news that had recently come to my attention.

I have recently read somewhere that in the year 2020 certain changes are going to take effect altering daringly the way we drive: Drivers will no longer be in control. Not in the sense that they will lose control — for one cannot lose that which one never had — but that the relationship between driver and road will be redefined.

This redefined relationship will be about shifting the emphasis away from individual drivers on the roads and towards an overall road-control system. It is envisaged that these new ideas would reduce congestion on motorways, stop-start driving and increase road capacity at the same time: Speed will be governed by an electronic "cruise-control" system which will keep drivers in convoy at the same speed. This will be achieved by means of signals transmitted from cables laid in the road. These signals will control speed and steering while an onboard radar in the vehicle will ensure that the driver keeps a distance.

This revolution is also about other developments as well. It is envisaged that in the future drivers would be unable even to start their cars if they have drunk anything over a small amount of alcohol: A sensor would detect the raised ethanol level in the cabin air and immobilise the engine.

As part of this overall utopian strategy announced by Jaguar cars a few days ago, it is also expected that mobile telephones would serve as "portable travel assistants" and that speech-recognition computers would adjust the seat and mirrors to the driver's favourite position.



The portable travel assistant would act as a navigator, using global positioning satellites to show where the car was on a map screen on the dashboard. It would also display information about current and imminent congestion on potential routes indicating the best roads to take, giving local weather forecasts and booking parking spaces.

The other half of the company's new idea is their environmental strategy: They favour charging drivers to use motorways even though that might prove politically unpopular. Their philosophy is that pollution, noise and congestion could be dealt with by science and technology and an abundance of political imagination and will.

When these ideas were presented to an audience, some showed signs of scepticism. One questioner wanted to know if the portable travel assistant might have the good sense to advise its owner to take a train rather than drive the car. The company's director answered that he was in favour of investment in good public transport but that he could not tell people to take it. "It's their choice," he said.

Choice is the keyword here. Something is on offer and we have the choice to either use it or lose it.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair



OBSERVATION TEST

What's wrong?

IN each of the above illustrations there is something obviously wrong. Can you see, at a glance, what it is?

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

after surmounting strong opposition.

** He lives on his wife.
Ya'eesh min mal zawjatehi.

** They loaded me with gifts.
Ghamarooni be'hadayahom.

** Can't you stay a little longer?
Ala tastati al-baqaa atwal min thalika beqalil?

** You are the light of my eyes.
Innaki nooru ainay.

** At whose door should the blame lie?
Ala man yulqa al 'lawm?

** His story was a tissue of lies.
Kanat qissatohu naseejan minal akatheeab.

** Poor handwriting is a liability in getting a job.
Kitabatohur-raadee'a heya aqabatohu fee hosoolehi ala amal.

** My money goes on food and clothing.
Onfiq nuqoodi alal-ma'kal-malbass.

** What is your goal in life?
Ma hadafuka fil-hayat?

JOKES

* BROTHER: "It's impossible for you to go alone to the cinema?"
SISTER: "You're right, but what do you think of taking Jameel, our neighbour, with me?"

* HUSBAND: "I suggest we go to Egypt to spend our honeymoon."
WIFE: "Why not? But I think, as long as we lead a poor life, it would be much better to travel there by myself and let you stay here."

* A long-time had passed on their marriage when she asked him for divorce.
On questioning her for the reason, she said:
"I didn't know that he was such an ignorant person."
When told he was highly educated, she answered: "No, I mean he is ignorant of household management."

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

CLIMBING

Whether up mountains, hills, stairs, or what have you, an increase in status and/or prosperity is forecast in a climbing dream; even if the effort seemed to tax your strength beyond endurance, you will still succeed, but only

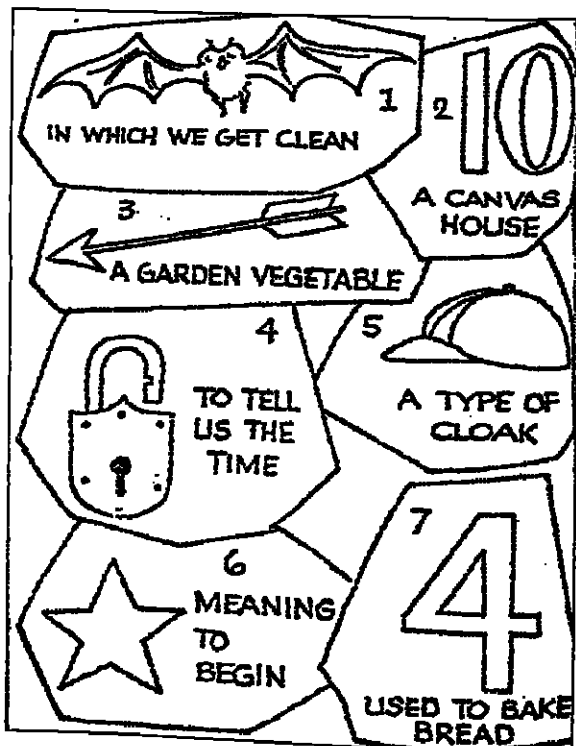
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the world's longest street?
2. Where are these cities located?
— Brampton, Rosario, Ferrara, Harbin, Kyoto.
3. Who was the founder of Buddhism?
4. What is an "excise duty"?
5. By whom were the following quotations said?
— "The trouble in this world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent full of doubt."
— "Frailty, thy name is woman."
— "A single step for a man, a giant leap for mankind."

PUZZLES

(A) ADD A LETTER

Add ONE letter to each picture to find the answers to the written clues



(B) INSERT THE MISSING NUMBERS

16 15 17 14 ?
32 33 31 34 ?

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, September 19, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Jonny Quest
3:30	N.B.A. Basketball
4:30	Take Your Pick (Game Show)
5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programme — Cirque
5:30	Show — Surprise Sur Prise
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Ushuaia
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Here's Lucy
8:00	In Good Company (Documentary)
8:30	Challenges
9:10	Star Trek — The Next Generation
10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — Vanished
12:00	Starring: George Hamilton & Lisa Hinnna
	Family Matters

Friday, September 20, 1996

3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Dumb & Dumber
3:30	See How They Grow
3:45	Milner Fenwick (Documentary)
4:15	Crystal Maze
5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programme — Les Polluards
5:30	Telefilm — Trahir
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Allo La Terre
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Growing Pains
8:00	Nasty Boys
8:45	Secret Weapons
9:10	The Wanderer
10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — Written On The Wind
	Starring: Rock Hudson & Dorothy Malone

Saturday, September 21, 1996

2:00	Teletext
3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Moomin
3:25	Pumpkin Patch
3:45	Blue Heelers
4:30	Big Brother Jake
5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Les Bons Genies
6:00	Series — Police Des Policies
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	The Torkelsons
8:00	The Album Show
8:45	Miami Vice
9:15	Prism
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:15	Feature Film — In The Line Of Duty
	Starring: Adam Arkin & Nicholas Turturro

Sunday, September 22, 1996

2:00	Teletext
3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Fievels American Tails
3:30	Just The Job
3:45	Italian Soccer
5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Game Show — Qui Est Qui
6:00	Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part One
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema

8:00 American Chart Show

8:45 Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

9:10 Blackie's Magic

10:00 News In English

10:25 Jamaica Inn

11:15 Short Story Cinema

Monday, September 23, 1996

2:00	Teletext
3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Adventure On The Rainbow Pond
3:30	Oscar's Orchestra
3:45	Playabout
4:15	World Echo (Documentary)
4:50	Hey Day
5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
5:15	Children Programme — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Pyramide
6:00	Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Science — Cinq Sur Cinq
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	The Hypnotic World Of Paul McKenna
8:00	Deep Probe Expeditions
9:10	The Lazarus Man
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Bodies Of Evidence

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

2:00	Teletext
3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Iris — The Happy Professor
3:20	Captain Planet
3:45	Alf
4:10	Road To Avonlea
5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programmes — Sciences Cartoon
5:15	Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Les Bons Genies
6:00	Varieties — Le Grand Bazar
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Ushuaia
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Blossom (Documentary)
8:00	Man Alive
8:30	Encounter
8:45	Varieties
9:10	Star Trek — The Next Generation
10:00	News In English
10:20	Mission Impossible
11:15	China Beach
12:00	My YTwo Wives

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

2:00	Teletext
3:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Iris — The Happy Professor
3:20	Flintstones
3:45	The Adventures
4:10	Kelly
4:30	Earth Revealed (Documentary)
5:00	News Flash
5:02	Document — La France Aux 1000 Villages
5:30	Varieties — Sacrifice Ou La Legende
6:00	Document — Les Enfants Du Voyage
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sport Et Musique
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	The Four Seasons
8:00	Super Stars Of Action
8:30	Chancer
9:10	Hunter
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Bugs

ack
Egyptian cinema turns to history for inspiration

By Mona Salem
Agence France Presse

CAIRO — Egyptian film-makers are turning to history for inspiration after a blockbuster movie depicting the life of Arab revolutionary leader Gamal Abdul Nasser broke box office records here.

Buoyed by the success of Nasser 56, director Mohammad Fadel is already preparing a new movie on the life of Egypt's formidable diva Oum Khoulsoum whose voice has captivated generations of Arab men and women.

Scriptwriter Ossama Anwar Okasha is working on a film about the 1973 Arab-Israeli war while director Abdul Halim Al Nahas is seriously thinking of doing a film on Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who has held the reins of power in Tripoli for 27 years.

"The success of Nasser 56 has given film-makers a taste for historical fiction and I think that such movies will inspire the young generation to read up more on history," Fadel told AFP.

Fadel said his blockbuster coiled in nearly three million pounds (\$1 million) at the box office just in its first four weeks. His new film Souma, the nickname Egyptians gave to their favourite singer Oum Khoulsoum, will like Nasser 56 be produced by Egypt's state television.

"The film's budget will be twice as much what was set aside for Nasser 56 which cost 1.6 million pounds to produce," Fadel said.

Nasser 56 depicted the late Egyptian president, who spearheaded the 1952 revolution which ousted the monarchy, through 100 crucial days of his life which preceded the nationalisation of the Suez Canal.

Fadel said he will also focus on a particular segment of Oum Khoulsoum's life — her "patriotic positions after the 1967 (Arab-Israeli) war."

"The film will deal with the last period of her life when she toured several Arab capitals before travelling to Paris to collect funds for the war effort but mostly to show that the Egyptian people could overcome the military defeat."

The film will also explain how Oum Khoulsoum rose to be the uncontested star of the Arab singing world in the 20th century, he added.

Egypt's Defence Ministry is to finance the movie on the 1973 October War, but Okasha refused to discuss the film saying "my contract with the ministry prohibits me from speaking about it."

"All I can say is that the film will deal with the October War from the humanitarian viewpoint," he said, adding that the film will be directed by Sherif Arafa.

The story of the Libyan revolution and Col. Qadhafi's role in bringing about a crisis of relations between Libya and the West will be the focus of the movie Nahas is preparing to direct, according to the Egyptian weekly Akhbar Al Yom.

The Egyptian press has also reported that film star Ahmad Zaki, who starred as Nasser in Fadel's film, has also been tipped to play assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Egyptian crooner Abdul Halim Al Hafez in future films.

Piano child star Oscar winner now a take-charge teen

By Ric Leyva
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Shooing her father outside and closing the door behind him, Anna Paquin is just a normal teenager looking for a little privacy.

"I don't need anybody to hold my hand," she says.

There's no trace of the tongue-tied little girl from New Zealand gasping for breath at the podium three years ago after winning an Academy Award for The Piano.

"Oh, I look pretty much the same, except for my hair," she deadpans, proud of the hip, short blocky style that has replaced traditional flowing girlish locks.

Except for her cherub's face, she couldn't look more different, wearing a tight, all-black outfit and Adidas sneakers fit for a downtown fashion model lounging between shoots — overwhelmingly innocent, yet still betraying a hint of danger.

At 14, she's far from being all grown up. Within minutes she's twirling her swivel chair like a merry-go-round, making faces at silly questions and giggling at the dumb ones, then leaning forward to whisper conspiratorially when one hits a nerve.

Her answers are littered with teen-speak, rapid-fire thoughts punctuated with "like," "totally," "you know" and "oh, my God." Still, she's incredibly self-possessed, with the refreshing openness and honesty of a natural talent. Apparently someone forgot to tell her she's going through her awkward years.

In the United States for the opening of Fly Away Home, a charming tale of a girl's devotion to an adopted flock of Canadian geese,

Paquin is enjoying a break from her "normal" life in Wellington, where she goes to public school and attends to household chores like anyone else her age.

"If I haven't done my homework I'm still going to get detention like the rest of the kids," she says. "At home, it's not like, if there's dishes to be done they say, 'oh no Anna, you can go relax in your room. You don't have to.' Of course I have to do it."

The only special treatment she gets is occasional, fame-related schoolyard venom.

"If there's something in the newspaper or something they'll try and sort of make it, even if there was a nice picture, they'll come up and say, 'your hair looked way better when you didn't do it that way,'" she says. "They'll try and be mean about it, so that they can. I don't know, put you down or something."

"Or maybe people will come up to you and ask totally nosy questions that you would never ask somebody that you don't know. And then they'll go around calling you a snob if you don't tell them how much money you make, or something like that."

Still, she's far from defenceless. "That kind of thing can be hard and I've gotten used to it. I've also got lots of good friends I've had since before any of this ever happened, so we just stick together," she says. "They stick up for me whenever anybody is being a pain about something."

Being normal means normal teenage rebellion, or at least attempts at it. During filming of Fly Away Home outside Toronto, Paquin gave it a try by pretending to get her nose pierced.

"I went to this old funky jewelry store and found this little clip-on nose ring. I was with a friend who knew the shopkeeper and he gave us each one," she says, head bent, whispering, suppressing giggles. "We thought, 'OK, this is going to be cool. Let's see how many people we can scare.' So first we, like, totally terrified her mother."

"I decided I would wear it onto set, leave it on and see how many people noticed. And so we were just about to shoot and (director) Carroll (Ballard) said, 'Anna, what is that thing on your nose?' and I said, 'what does it look like?' he said, 'I know you didn't put a hole in your nose. You're not quite that stupid. How is it attached?'"

"Uhhh," she moans, making a fist and pounding the table. "Like, no one freaked out at all. I was expecting somebody to say, 'oh my God, she's gone and pierced her nose.' Totally non-response. Then Carroll said, 'I like that. Let's use it.' and I'm like, 'you're supposed to freak, not say, 'I want to use it in the next shot.'"

She wore it throughout the final part of the film, the ring becoming a symbol of her character's personal growth and her renewed bond with a previously estranged father.

"It was my idea," Paquin says simply, happy with the progress of her own personal life. She can't yet boast a real pierced nostril, but things are coming along nicely.

"I was getting kind of sick of people coming up and saying, 'oh, you're that sweet little girl from The Piano,'" she says, putting her feet up on the table. "I got really tired of braids and little girl clothes. I was getting



Actress Anna Paquin, of New Zealand, portrays Amy Alden in the new film Fly Away Home, in which her character discovers a nest of goose eggs and brings them home to hatch and adopts the flock of goslings. The film opened in the United States on Sept. 13 (Reuter photo)

worried that I was going to keep getting that until I was 90."

Paquin, the beneficiary of astounding circumstances, is on intimate terms with fate, with accidental synergy. The most amazing example is how she landed the Oscar-winning role in The Piano without really meaning to.

"Zero," she says of her previous acting experience. "It was an open-cast audition. Someone I knew saw an ad and they started talking about it. I thought there were probably a lot of people going, and well, maybe I'd come along too. I just thought it might be fun. I

didn't know exactly what we were going to. I didn't even know what acting was."

"They were older kids and I, kind of, in the younger kid syndrome, said 'I want to come, too.' Didn't care where they were going. It was more the point that I got to come. But then, of course, I got the part. I guess it is just my fate. I stumbled into a perfect situation."

The secret of her success, she says, is never trying to find the secret.

"I just do it. I don't know how or why it is that what I do works, or whatever, even if it does work," she says, shy for the first time. "If you

think about things too much, you know, it's all going to go to your head. You're going to think, 'am I doing it right?' and it's all going to go wrong."

Life remains very uncomplicated and being an actor is an act of faith.

"I like acting and I want to do it heaps more," she says. "But not all child actors get to be adult actors. I know that."

Being an Oscar-winner has its privileges. She insists on having the final say on any career moves.

"If I don't want to do it, I don't do it," she says. "I get a lot of advice, but ultimately, it's up to me."

After The Piano, she co-starred in Jane Eyre. She recently finished her fourth film, Member Of The Wedding, with Alfre Woodard, for the USA cable TV network.

Beyond that is anyone's guess. All Paquin knows is that she isn't afraid of success spoiling her leisurely waltz toward womanhood.

"You can't actually change the amount of time it takes to grow up," she says wisely. "You never really know if I was going to grow up quicker or slower without the acting, or the Oscar, you know, I'm growing up normally."

OK. Now define normal.

Logos rule — from Paramount's peak to Universal's world

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The mountain peak with the halo of stars. The disgruntled lion. The spinning globe. The futuristic city with the searchlights.

What would we do without those signature logos that precede our favourite feature films?

What indeed. For generations those brief, fanfare-driven sequences have given audiences the promise, often betrayed, of a certain quality of entertainment.

Years ago, the Warner Bros. shield held the prospect of gangsters and choruses. The MGM lion bespoke rich folks in tuxedos and gowns. The Paramount mountain often meant comedy and music in the Hope-Crosby vein.

Other than a few updating touches here and there, the logos have remained largely the same over the years. But today, you never know what kind of a movie will follow, since the studios are no longer driven by a single creative force.

"About 20 years ago, some of the studios started getting rid of their trademarks, believing them to be old-fashioned," observes film historian Leonard Maltin.

"But then they realised, 'we're throwing away gold. These symbols are among the best known not only in the United States, but in every country of the world,' so they went back to the old logos."

Paramount's appears to be the oldest of all. The story goes that in 1914 a theatre distributor from Utah named W.W. Hodkinson was on his way to persuade Adolph Zukor to release his movies through Hodkinson's company. On a Manhattan street

Other than a few updating touches here and there, the signature logos have remained largely the same over the years. But today, you never know what kind of a movie will follow, since the studios are no longer driven by a single creative force.

he saw a building along, though Sam Goldwyn himself did not.

The most elaborate of movie logos, MGM's also became the most recognisable. The massive head of Leo is surrounded by a garland of movie film on which appear the Latin "ars gratia artis" (art for art's sake). The film serpentine to the left and the right at the lower part of the circle. At the bottom, a mask of comedy is surrounded by laurel leaves.

One of the sensations of the earliest talkies occurred when Leo uttered his cranky roar. Audiences gasped in amazement.

Fox Films, founded in 1915 by William Fox, had no particular logo. When Fox merged with Darryl F. Zanuck's Twentieth Century in 1935, the new company adopted Zanuck's logo of a modernistic cityscape with searchlights, accompanied by drum beats and a fanfare. The logo has remained the same, though the scene was recently expanded.

King Kong, Citizen Kane, the Astaire-Rogers musicals and a thousand other RKO movies were introduced by a globe topped by a radio tower. Morse code tapped out a radio picture, the letters appearing atop the tower.

The company, founded in 1928, was partly owned by RCA, parent of NBC, hence the radio connection. RKO as a studio lasted until 1956, when Howard Hughes sold it to General Tire.

Sony now controls two famed logos, one venerable, one fairly recent. Stalwart Miss Columbia, wrapped in robes like a Greek goddess against a cloud-filled sky, has been heralding Columbia Films since the mid-1920s. Tristar's white pegasus has been winging toward the screen since the company started in 1982.

Miss Columbia's appearance has been updated from time to time and the horse was tweaked recently but both remain basically the same.

Warner Bros. has kept the same simple logo since the 1920s — a shield bearing the big, full-of-themselfs letters WB.

American film studios aren't alone in cornering the logo market.

Who can forget the introduction to England's Rank Films of the 1940s and 1950s? It showed a bare-chested musclemann striking a gong the size of an satellite dish.

And then there's Disney, which had no particular logo until the 1980s, when the company entered the feature business in a big way with three divisions. Walt Disney Pictures offers a replica of Sleeping Beauty's castle, Touchstone has a circle with a lightning bolt, and Hollywood Pictures features a Sphinx.

The most popular movie logo of all time appeared on short subjects. For years Disney's Mickey Mouse cartoons opened with a portrait of Mickey that filled the screen. It never failed to evoke cheers.

Indian TV goes adult in a blaze of controversy

By M.R. Narayan Swamy
Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — India's first "adult" television channel is poised to be launched at the end of next month in a blaze of controversy.

Plus 21, a restricted pay channel, promises a diet of rude jokes, adult songs and risqué serials. Its opponents, however, are promising determined opposition in this traditionally conservative country.

"We will have all kinds of adult programmes," said Suresh Kumar, chief executive officer of Globe Internet Ltd, which owns the new network.

"There will be no pornography, but yes, we will show nudity if the story demands," Kumar, speaking from the northern city of Chandigarh, said the channel, due to start beaming four hours daily on India's Independence Day on Aug. 15 before being delayed by organisational changes, added: "It will be a channel for the mentally mature people."

Plus 21 has already announced its programmes for the first three months, and they include programmes which would never be screened on state-run television.

A 100-episode serial on Kamasutra, the Indian sex treatise, features prominently, as well as a 30-part sex education movie, a serial on Bombay's famous red light district and a soap on extra-marital affairs.

A doctor will answer viewer queries on sex problems. There will also be a 50-episode serial on "unfulfilled cravings of grooms and brides" and a raunchy comedy titled Brothel.

But the channel has already raised a few hackles. Not every neighbourhood cable operator is keen on the channel while some television producers feel India is too old-fashioned for a sex revolution — even on screen.

"I don't think we are ready for such a channel," said Rajat Sharma of the popular Zee TV. "We are still a sensitive society," Sharma said many parents were against a cable TV because they beamed adult programmes broadcast by foreign channels.

Karan Thapar, a director of Home TV, added: "If by adult you mean mindlessly sexy, then I would be very happy not to have them."

A consumer group has filed a petition in a court demanding that Plus 21 should be banned while a judge in New Delhi re-

cently accused Indian channels of encouraging "cultural pollution" of young minds.

In a country where kissing in movies was taboo until recently, television channels enforce self-censorship. Zee TV faced protests from hospital nurses for merely shortening their skirt length in a soap last year.

In New Delhi, the Cable Networks Association, an umbrella group of independent cable operators, says it would try to block Plus 21.

"The channel will offend our subscribers," a spokesman said.

"There should be no room for permissive culture," added Krishan Lal Sharma, a rightwing Hindu member of parliament.

But Globe Internet Ltd, chief Kumar remains confident.

"We have double standards regarding sex," he said. "We talk about Kamasutra but are completely ignorant about sex. There are people who don't even know how to kiss," he said.

"In a small place like Chandigarh 10,000 girls get pregnant because they have no knowledge about birth control. We should be adult enough."

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

- A fool bolts pleasure, then complains of moral indigestion
— Minna Antrim, American writer (1861-1950).
- History repeats itself because nobody listens
— anonymous.
- Life is a joke that's just begun
— W.S. Gilbert, English librettist (1836-1911).
- Peace without justice is tyranny
— Allen White, American writer and newspaper editor (1868-1944).
- Love hath no physic for a grief too deep
— Robert Nathan, American author and composer (1894-1985).
- Some seek bread, and some seek wealth and ease, and some seek fame, but all are seeking rest
— Frederick Langbridge, English clergyman and author (1849-1922).

Strange microbe has scientists talking about its (and our) origins

By Nicholas Wade

NEW YORK — Scientists have the dustiest of creation myths — no Adam made from lifeless dust, no Aphrodite born of foamy seas, just some conjectural watery womb where life began as a chemical accident.

But though drab as myth, the origin of life is supreme among scientific mysteries, and a notable stride has now been taken toward understanding the nature of what scientists call the universal ancestor, the living cell that lies at the root of the tree of evolution.

The new advance comes from analysis of a strange

microbe that was recovered from the deep sea vessel Alvin from a volcanic vent on the Pacific floor. Here the microbe, known as Methanococcus jannaschii, lives at crushing pressures 245 times greater than at sea level and at scalding temperatures just a few degrees below the boiling point of water.

The microbe belongs to an ancient kingdom of organisms known as the Archaea. Many live in extreme environments, like hot springs or deep sea vents. Despite their obscurity, the Archaea constitute a third kingdom of life, alongside the Prokarya, cells like bacteria that

have no nucleus, and the Eukarya, organisms with nucleated cells, which include all plants and animals.

The entire genome or genetic blueprint of the microbe has now been chemically sequenced by a team under Dr. J. Craig Venter at the Institute for Genomic Research in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and a report on the work is published in the current edition of Science.

This is first time the entire gene set of an Archaeal organism has been deciphered. Last year Dr. Venter's group cracked the full DNA sequence of the first bacterium and of a second microorganism called a

mycoplasma. An international group of laboratories has finished, but not yet published, the full DNA sequence of yeast, a simple plant.

The sequencing of the Methanococcus DNA means that genetic blueprints are now or soon will be available for representatives of each of the three kingdoms of life. With three points of triangulation, scientists can start to work backwards to figure out features of the universal ancestor cell of three kingdoms.

The universal ancestor would have emerged after the beginning of life on Earth, at least 3.6 billion

years ago, and before the branching into the three kingdoms some 3 billion years ago.

Dr. Venter says his data also puts beyond doubt the question of whether the Archaea are a separate kingdom. The idea was first proposed in 1977 by Dr. Carl R. Woese of the University of Illinois but received "a universal thumbs down," Dr. Woese said.

The unusual nature of Methanococcus emerged from a comparison of its genes with those that have already been sequenced from other organisms, mostly prokaryotes or eukaryotes.

Dr. Venter said he and his

team, including Dr. Woese, "were astounded to find that two-thirds of the genes do not look like anything we've ever seen in biology before."

From the genes that can be identified, it appears that Methanococcus has metabolic processes similar to those of bacteria but it has information processing genes more similar to those of eukaryotes.

The sequencing project was funded by a \$1.1 million grant from the Department of Energy, whose Microbial Genome Project is the counterpart of the better known Human Genome Project, which the depart-

ment runs jointly with the National Institutes of Health.

The Energy Department is interested in Methanococcus because the microbe's ability to synthesise methane from carbon dioxide and hydrogen could in principle contribute to some form of generating renewable energy.

Also, the many enzymes of Methanococcus that function at high temperatures may find a role in industrial processes. An enzyme from a similar deep ocean vent organism is already a vital ingredient in the DNA analysis technique known as the polymerase

chain reaction.

The genetic blueprint of Methanococcus consists of 1.7 million chemical units of DNA. Only recently have the funding, sequencing machines and computer software become adequate to take DNA molecules of this size.

The Institute of Genome Research has taken the lead in the race to sequence genomes, which is driven by pharmaceutical interest as well as by scientists' desire for knowledge — The New York Times.

It's no joke as the laughing doctor heals through humour

By A. J. Singh

IT'S A FUNNY old world in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) these days. Venture down to Lokhandwala at 6 a.m. and you may stumble on a group of 60 middle-aged and elderly people who have something to smile about.

They gather in a corner while their instructor prepares to put them through their paces — warming up with deep-breathing exercises and chanting, before letting rip with howls, hoots, hee-haws, hoots, giggles, guffaws and gleeful laughter.

Welcome to one of Mumbai's 26 laughing clubs. Membership is free and the men and women who join in

the jollity are doing so with the aim of laughing all the way to good health.

"It doesn't cost you anything to laugh," says one participant, 46-year-old Bikram, a company executive with diabetes and heart trouble, whose high-powered job had given him stress problems.

Now, after lessons in laughter at Lokhandwala Park, the stress has gone and he feels healthy. "I believe that laughter is a great medicine," he gasps between giggles.

The laughing club movement, which is spreading to other Indian cities, began a year ago when a Mumbai physician, Dr. Madan Katara, decided to experiment with the healing powers of

humour.

"I hit upon the idea of starting a laughing club so that the common man could laugh his way to good health without having to spend any money," says Dr. Katara.

It has long been known that laughter is good for the body, so the doctor and a handful of dubious disciples gathered in Lokhandwala Park one day to crack feeble jokes in an attempt at group therapy.

Passers-by sniggered, but the patients kept on smiling, and the next day they were surprised to see 15 other people turn up to join the fun — complete with their own stock of jokes.

The idea grew from there. But jokes were soon banned

"Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone," says the old proverb. In India a doctor has launched a movement of group laughter therapy to tickle participants into health.

as a means of eliciting laughter after they began to get smutty. Instead, exercises are performed to tease out the titters.

Each member — men and women in separate rows — is asked to stand with hands raised.

This position makes laughing easier and helps participants to feel relaxed and shed inhibitions.

Next, members chant "Ho ho! Ha ha!" together for several minutes. Then they look at — and laugh at —

each other.

Later, participants are asked to laugh silently with their mouths closed. This abdominal exercise can benefit people suffering from respiratory illnesses such as asthma and bronchitis.

Lastly, there is the free and open laughter, which can go on for 15 minutes.

Many middle-class professionals join in these happy hours, along with housewives and old folk. Teenagers tend to steer clear as they pursue their own

forms of fun.

When Deben, a 68-year-old stockbroker, joined a laughing club, his blood pressure reading was a high 170/95. Six months later, he had stopped taking medicine after the pressure dropped to a far healthier 140/80.

Kamini, a female social worker who suffered stress problems, says: "I used to feel drained by the end of the day. But the early-morning sessions of laughter keep me pepped up all day. I feel really invigorated."

Dr. Katara explained that the act of laughing stimulates brain chemicals called endorphins — natural painkillers which can also produce a feeling of well-being.

He reckons that laughter can help relieve a host of illnesses, including most stress-related disorders, such as high blood pressure, anxiety and depression.

Research shows that laughing can also make a person feel younger. It acts as a natural beautician by toning up facial muscles and increasing blood supply to the skin, giving it a natural glow.

Meanwhile, tears of laughter cleanse the eyes, adding sparkle.

Some behaviourists describe laughs as "rhythmic bursts of social glue." They say that people are 30 times more likely to laugh in social settings than when alone.

"What most of us cherish is the enhanced sense of social bonding and kinship," says Sanghvi, 46, who discovered his local laughing club while he was out jogging in the park one day. "It's like one large extended family which can be counted upon to share personal moments of happiness and grief."

With the laughing club movement now firmly established in India, interest in spreading the idea abroad has come from France, Hong Kong, Italy, and Japan.

There is even talk in Mumbai of seeking funds to establish a Laughter Research Centre. After all, it's a serious subject — Gemini News.

Researchers claim major breakthrough in cancer, AIDS battle

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian researchers have discovered an enzyme which could revolutionise cancer and AIDS treatments, they announced here Tuesday.

The enzyme chews up and digests dying human cells which would make toxic treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, which are used to damage the DNA of can-

cer cells, unnecessary, researchers said.

"We believe it is a major discovery," researcher, Sydney biochemist Professor Murray Fraser, told AFP.

"In the long-term we believe it will do away with the need for chemotherapy and radiation treatments. It has very important implications for the killing of cancer

cells."

Prof. Fraser said it was early stages but it was hoped the enzyme could be deployed in future to cause cancerous or virus-infected cells to "suicide."

"Once enough damage has been caused, the enzyme goes after the DNA to chop it up," he said.

Researchers said they know the enzyme can be

turned on naturally but they now need to find out how that happens.

Prof. Fraser said that when the trigger mechanism is found, the enzyme, known as Endonuclease or EE, could also be manipulated to stop the destruction of normal cells in the immune system when people are infected with HIV.

"The AIDS virus turns on the process which kills cells inappropriately. We may be able to reverse this so that we can keep the cells we want," Prof. Fraser said.

Research on EE, by Prof. Fraser, a Canadian, and two colleagues at Sydney's Children's Cancer Institute will be

published in the September issue of the United Kingdom Journal of Cell Science.

Prof. Fraser, who began work on EE more than 20 years ago, will present the findings at a conference of the American Association for Cancer Research in three weeks.

The enzyme, first iso-

lated in an orange-red mould commonly seen on burnt sugarcane fields, is present in all living cells.

It has the dual role of repairing damaged DNA and digesting it when cells die.

Prof. Fraser said EE was activated in a natural process known as

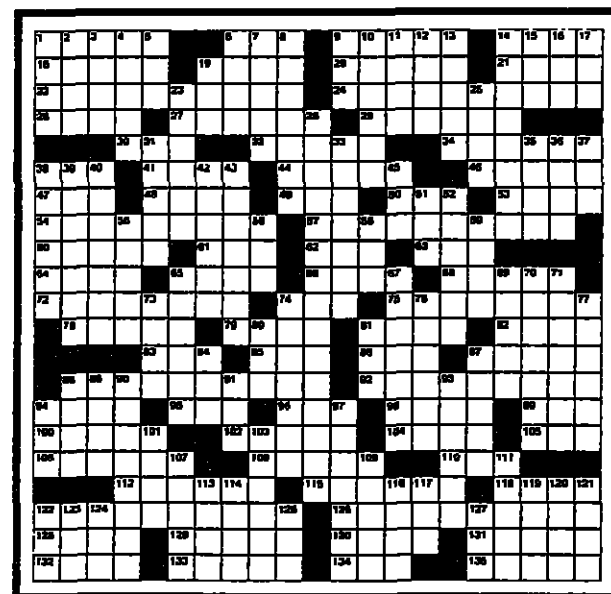
apoptosis, where unwanted, decaying cells are broken down and engulfed by adjacent healthy cells.

Drug companies had already shown interest in the discovery. Prof. Fraser said, but he was unable to say when it would be marketed.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ROUTED
By Stanley B. Whitten

- ACROSS
1. Quoted
 2. Emergency
 3. Improvised
 4. The city of
 5. North or South
 6. Kid
 7. Land of
 8. Dumbfounded
 9. Bristle
 10. Class
 11. Brawl
 12. Prepared
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Non-infectious diseases on the rise — WHO report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Non-infectious diseases such as heart attacks and cancer will account for 73 per cent of all deaths worldwide within 25 years, compared to 55.8 per cent in 1990, says a new study by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

In the report, entitled 'The Global Burden of Diseases', researchers attribute the increase in non-communicable diseases to the aging of the worldwide population and to tobacco consumption.

Fatal diseases related to tobacco could triple over the next 25 years, accounting for some 8.4 million deaths a year, which would make tobacco the chief

cause of death.

As for the aging population, the researchers point out that the number of people aged 45 or older is expected to increase 200 per cent between 1990 and 2020.

Non-communicable diseases, already the leading cause of death and incapacitation in the industrialised world, "will be the coming epidemic in low-income and middle-income countries," said Dean Jamison, the University of California professor who directed the study.

"Only in sub-Saharan Africa will communicable diseases kill more than non-communicable diseases in

the next 25 years," he added.

In 2020, according to the study, heart disease will be the chief cause of death and incapacitating disease, accounting for 15 per cent of the total. Following right behind at nearly 15 per cent will be depression, the report says.

Road accidents will be third, followed by cerebrovascular diseases, the report adds. War comes in third and AIDS tenth.

WHO also foresees a decrease in infectious diseases in developing countries except for tuberculosis and AIDS. Its projections indicate that tuberculosis will cause 2.3 to 3.3 million

deaths yearly in 2020.

That same year AIDS could cause one to 1.7 million deaths after peaking at 1.7 to 1.9 million deaths between 2006 and 2012.

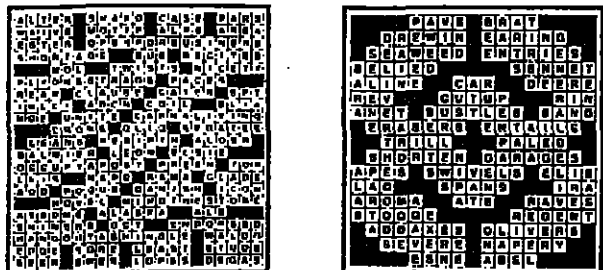
The report also criticises funding of medical research, noting that "medical research receives just 3.4 per cent of the total funds invested in health care."

And it pointedly noted that while tuberculosis, pneumonia and diarrheal diseases together account for almost one-fifth of the "global disease burden" today only 0.2 per cent of research money goes toward studying those diseases.

Diagramless, 19x19
By Harold B. Counts

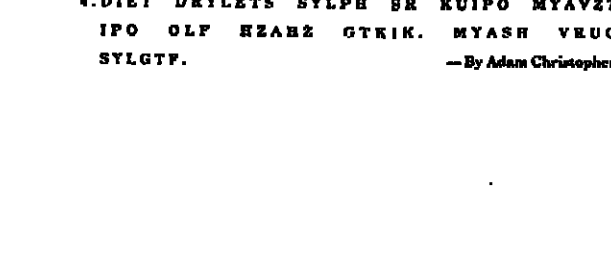
- ACROSS
1. Cane problem
 2. Felt
 3. Legally satisfied
 4. Whiskey
 5. Pleased
 6. Declines
 7. Man impact
 8. Funniest
 9. Shoreline
 10. Extra line
 11. Sings
 12. Reason
 13. Range
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



ANSWERS

- OBSERVATION TEST
- WHAT'S WRONG?
1. Blue-jackets never wear glasses.
 2. The handkerchief pocket is on the wrong side of the jacket.
 3. There are no railway lines.
 4. A tax levied on certain goods produced and consumed in the country (as distinct from customs duty which is levied on goods imported from the country).
 5. Bertrand Russell
William Shakespeare
Neil Armstrong.
- BANK OF KNOWLEDGE
1. Broadway. It extends c. 150 mi (241 km) from lower Manhattan to Albany.
 2. Brampton - Canada.
Rosario - Argentina.
Ferrara - Italy.
Harbin - China.
Kyoto - Japan.
 3. Gauntama (Siddhartha), later he was called Buddha (literally, the enlightened one). He was a Kshatriya prince of Saka clan. He lived between 567 and 480 B.C.
- PUZZLES
- (A) ADD A LETTER
1. Bath
 2. tent
 3. marrow
 4. clock
 5. cape
 6. start
 7. flour
- (B) INSERT THE MISSING NUMBER
- 18 (The numbers at the top follow the sequence: -1, +2, -3, +4)
 - 30 (Those at the bottom: +1, -2, +3, -4)

Fulbright Programme — 50 years in the service of man and peace

By: Dr. Taisir Subhi

THE YEAR 1996 marks the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Exchange Programme, which is sponsored by the United States Information Agency (USIA). Colleges, universities and community organisations throughout the world will be organising events and activities during this year to increase awareness about Fulbright Programme and its 50th anniversary theme "Promoting global understanding".

At the close of World War II, leaders of the victorious countries were searching for ways to pick up the pieces to create, if at all possible, a more peaceful and prosperous future for all nations. A young U.S. senator from the state of Arkansas, J. William Fulbright, had an idea.

"The prejudices and misconceptions which exist in every country regarding foreign people," he told a friend, "are the great barrier to any system of government." If, however, the peoples of the world could get to know each other better, live together and learn side by side, he said "they might develop a capacity for empathy, a distaste for killing other men, and an inclination for peace."

Fulbright had travelled throughout Eastern Europe and had been at Oxford University in England as a Rhodes scholar, experiences that had broadened his horizons and made him a citizen of the world. From his time in England, he knew the value of educational exchanges first-hand. Fulbright sought to create a programme that would take in the whole world, with students and scholars from as many countries as possible, studying, lecturing, and doing research in the United States, and young Americans studying and living and getting to know the people in other parts of the world.

A measure that Fulbright introduced to the U.S. Congress, "for the promotion of international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of

education, culture and science," was passed by the Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on Aug. 1, 1946. Senator Fulbright and the State Department's Chief of Cultural Affairs William Benton attended the signing ceremony.

What sets the Fulbright Programme aside from privately/individually funded exchanges is its focus on the selection of an exceptional sort of participant who, no matter what his/her socio-economic, ethnic, religious or gender background, shows the promise of leadership that can be developed or enhanced through an exchange experience. Today the very ethos of the Fulbright Programme remains what it was 50 years ago at its creation "the belief that international relations can be improved, and the danger of war significantly reduced, by producing generations of leaders... who have acquired some feeling of understanding of other peoples' cultures — why they operate as they do, why they think as they do, why they react as they do — and of the differences among these cultures."

Thus, on Aug. 1, 1946, began the programme that historian Arnold Toynbee would call "one of the really generous and imaginative things that have been done in the world since World War II" and that the U.S. State Department would call "the most fabulously profitable investment ever authorised by Congress."

Grants are awarded to American students, teachers, and scholars to study, teach and conduct research abroad, and to foreign nationals to engage in similar activities in the United States. Individuals are selected on the basis of academic or professional qualifications and potential, plus the ability and willingness to share ideas and experiences with people of diverse cultures.

Approximately 5,000 new grants are awarded annually. More than 200,000 "Fulbrighters" — over 90,000 from the United States and

120,000 from abroad — have participated in the programme since it began.

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Programme is an annual appropriation made by the Congress to the USIA. Participating governments and host institutions in many countries and the United States also contribute through cost-sharing, as well as by indirect support such as salary supplements, tuition waivers, university housing and other benefits.



Beginning in fewer than ten countries after World War II, on a budget of \$6.8 million, the Fulbright Programme now reaches over 150 countries. The total U.S. government contribution to the programme over its nearly 50-year history is approximately \$1.67 billion.

The total cost of the Fulbright Programme for the academic year 1994-95 was approximately \$181 million of which approximately 70 per cent (126 million) came from Congressional appropriations to USIA and the Department of Education. Foreign governments contributed approximately \$23 million. In addition, \$25 million came from donations, endowments, and in-kind support from the private sector in the United States and another \$7 million from the private sector in foreign countries.

The term Fulbright Programme encompasses a variety of exchange programmes, including several types of individual and institutional grants:

(1) The American Scholar Programme sends over 1,000 scholars and professionals a year to more than 100 countries, where they lecture or conduct research

in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, ranging from journalism and urban planning to music, philosophy and zoology.

(2) The Visiting Scholar Programme awards grants to foreign scholars to come to the United States to lecture or conduct post-doctoral research. About 1,000 scholars come yearly for an academic year to term.

(3) Pre-Doctoral Fellowships are offered to American and foreign graduate

1993-94, there were 188 Humphrey Fellows in the United States;

(6) The University Affiliations Programme seeks to establish linkages between U.S. universities and institutions overseas through the exchange of faculty and staff. Begun as a pilot project in Africa in 1982, the programme became worldwide in 1983. In 1993, it awarded 21 institutional grants ranging from \$54,000 to 120,000 each for a total of \$2.2 million. These linkages focus on the social sciences, humanities, business administration, and the arts. Since the programme's inception, over 300 institutional grants have been awarded.

(7) Fulbright-Hays Foreign Areas and Language Training Programmes are designed to promote and improve modern foreign language training and area studies in the United States without providing for reciprocal exchanges. Administered by the Department of Education, these programmes involved 960 Americans in 1993 and were funded under a Congressional appropriation of about \$6 million. Among the programmes offered are: Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship for Ph.D. candidates in foreign languages and area studies; Faculty Research Abroad awards; Group Projects Abroad seminars for teachers and faculty; and Fulbright Seminars Abroad for U.S. teachers, school administrators, social studies supervisors, and curriculum directors.

The binational approach is the hallmark that distinguishes the Fulbright Programme from most others, either public or private. Like other elements of the programme, the binational approach developed partly by design, partly fortuitously. It began with two provisions of the original Fulbright Act: one authorising the secretary of state "to enter into an executive agreement or agreements with any foreign government" for the use of currencies derived from sales for educational exchanges, the other prescribing financing

of these exchanges "by the formation of foundations or otherwise."

An executive agreement was necessary because the sales of surplus property in general were normally made to other governments and the terms of sales — for example, payment in non-dollar currencies at agreed rates — had to be agreed upon. The effects was "binational" — the launching of a programme with the formal blessing of a local government as well as that of the United States.

The origin of what became known as "binational foundations" or "binational commissions" was more complex. "Foundations or otherwise" was sufficiently vague to allow the State Department flexibility in determining the means for carrying out the programme. Some institutions or agency obviously had to receive and disburse the non-convertible foreign currencies and also provide a local base with the country concerned for the two-way exchange.

The decision to organise such an agency along binational lines stemmed largely from American experiments with binationalism in its prior programme of educational exchanges in Latin America, begun in 1939. Under the coordinator for Inter-American Affairs, the concept had been developed of a jointly planned, financed and administered service, usually for health, education, or agriculture; and of a semi-autonomous status within the appropriate ministry of the host government. Cultural centres of institutes, established largely for the purpose of teaching English, were operated (and in many cases continue to exist) under binational boards of directors. "Selection committees," composed mainly of nationals of the particular country, conducted the competitions for awards from Latin America for study in the United States. Latin America had thus been a proving ground for the binational approach, and it was reasoned that the concept should be extended to the new Fulbright academic

exchange programme.

In the first countries with which agreements were concluded, these agencies were usually titled "United States Educational Foundation in (name of country)." With the passage of time, the title in some countries came to reflect more nearly the binational character of the agency, with names like the Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange, or the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States of America and Sweden. The new binational commissions came to consist of six to 14 members, half Americans and half citizens of the other country. As it has evolved, American membership usually includes representatives from the embassy — usually one or two officers from the U.S. Information service section — and private Americans resident in the community, such as teachers, businessmen, journalists or foundation executives. Foreign membership usually includes high-level representation from the Ministers of Education and foreign Affairs and university professors and administrators.

It was decided that the programme would best serve the mutual interests of the U.S. and the other countries by giving them an important voice in programme plans, decisions and administration. Although the U.S. government was the official source of funds, and might have operated the programme unilaterally, control was shared from the beginning. Largely as a result, the programme received an almost immediate acceptability and recognition abroad that it has never lost.

The most significant result of the binational approach has undoubtedly been the willingness of many governments to join the United States in financing the programme. The opportunity for such participation was opened by the Fulbright-Hays Act in 1961, which authorised the president "to seek the agreement of other governments concerned to cooper-

ate and assist, including making use of funds placed in special accounts... in furtherance of the purposes of the Act..."

Today, more than 30 governments have signed through renegotiated agreements or equivalent arrangements their willingness to join in financing this academic exchange programme.

The success of the Fulbright Programme is difficult to measure, but also difficult to deny. At one point, senator Fulbright commented that the purpose of the programme was simply "to acquaint Americans with the world as it is and to acquaint students and scholars from many lands with America as it is — not as we wish it were or as we might wish foreigners to see it, but exactly as it is — which by my reckoning is an 'image' of which no American need be ashamed." Since the programme began, well over 200,000 people have been offered at least the opportunity to become well acquainted with another culture and society and to develop the empathy that this acquaintance will usually bring.

Moving beyond the self-evident benefits, professional and personal, that a Fulbright award brings to an individual, it can certainly be said that the Fulbright Programme has contributed to the expansion of human knowledge. This has always been highly dependent on the opportunities creative people have to broaden their experiences which in contact with others who share their intellectual interests. The Fulbright Programme has enabled thousands of gifted young scholars to do this on an international scale.

The Fulbright Programme is enormously popular in Jordan and Fulbrighters see themselves, whether as students, lecturers or researchers, as part of a noble, larger purpose.

The writer is a member of the Faculty of Arts and Literature at Al al-Bayt University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Barzani meets Pelletreau

(Continued from page 1)

paper warned Mr. Barzani that the United States would only rob his people of their gains in northern Iraq.

"The Americans are playing at dialogue, but that risks destroying the major gains by the Kurds of Iraq in returning to the nation's bosom," Al Jumhuriya said.

It warned Iraqi Kurds that they must be "careful, because the Americans have supported Turkey and Iran in their aggression against Turkish and Iranian Kurds."

"The United States and their traitors are trying to block the process begun by the Kurdish patriots to strengthen national unity in Iraq," Al Jumhuriya said. Baghdad's military incursion into Iraqi Kurdistan on Aug. 31 triggered U.S. cruise missile attacks against military targets in southern Iraq.

As anti-missile Patriot missiles arrived in Kuwait and a U.S. submarine crossed the Suez Canal en route to the Gulf on Wednesday, Iraq said it would wage a political battle against the United States.

"Our political riposte will defeat the (U.S.) Stealth warplanes," vowed the newspaper Babel which is run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

"A calm and measured attitude and a boosting of Iraq's bilateral relations, especially with China, Russia and France, will also allow us to lift the (U.N.) embargo," imposed in 1990, it said.

Iraqi newspapers hailed the show of support from the Arab foreign ministers conference in Cairo at the weekend that condemned

outside interference in Iraq's internal affairs and criticised the U.S. build up.

Mr. Talabani, leader of the PUK, insisted Wednesday that his group was still a military force to be reckoned with.

"We have thousands of fighters, and we are still a major army," he told the Tehran newspaper Iran. But he acknowledged his "military defeat" by the KDP backed by Baghdad.

Mr. Talabani denied KDP charges that the PUK received military backing from Tehran, saying that "if Iran had helped the PUK, the outcome of the war would have been different."

"Unhappily, Iran did not help us and if we had received heavy arms we could have defended ourselves," the Kurdish leader said.

He accused the KDP of wanting to reduce the PUK to "a simple political movement."

Some 150,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees are stranded on the Iraqi side of the border with Iran, the PUK and Iran say, while another 60,000 have been housed in five camps just inside Iran.

Mr. Talabani, who has crossed into Iran like tens of thousands of refugees, will not take part in the meeting but Washington "hopes to set up a meeting with him at some time or another," the State Department said.

It said the United States wants to see Mr. Barzani break away from Iraq and Mr. Talabani from Iran. Apart from sending F-117 Stealth bombers and F-16 fighters to Kuwait last week, the United States has ordered an additional deployment of some 3,500 troops to join 1,200 U.S. soldiers training in the

Kuwait desert.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, whose country Iraq invaded in 1990, said Wednesday that the emirate would allow U.S. troops to use its territory to launch an attack if Kuwait were threatened again.

The State Department delivered a new diplomatic warning to Baghdad on Tuesday not to threaten allied warplanes patrolling exclusion zones over northern and southern Iraq.

But Defence Secretary William Perry said Baghdad was backing off in the south and there was "some reason" to hope air strikes would not be necessary.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz sent a letter of protest to the United Nations, calling the overflights "a flagrant assault" on its sovereignty.

Baghdad has since Friday stuck to its pledge to suspend attacks on the allied warplanes.

Britain is still ready to send troops to Kuwait to defend it against threats of Iraqi attacks, Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said.

Speaking after talks with Sheikh Sabah Mr. Rifkind said: "We have shown in the past a willingness... for troops to be sent and if it became necessary in the future we would also respond in a positive way."

The British foreign secretary said he had an "important and positive discussion" with his Kuwaiti counterpart, who earlier also visited France.

"The United Kingdom stands four-square with Kuwait in the defence of its independence and its territorial integrity," Mr. Rifkind said.

Iraq says it is safe for oil-for-food deal

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — With the Iraqi oil-for-food plan on hold, Iraq's U.N. ambassador said Tuesday there were no security problems in his country which would prevent the United Nations from allowing Baghdad to resume oil sales.

President Bill Clinton has said the plan to allow Iraq to begin limited oil sales has been suspended following the Iraqi army's incursion into northern Iraq in support of one Kurdish faction against Iranian-backed rivals.

Officially, the decision whether to proceed with the plan rests with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. On Sept. 1, Dr. Ghali stopped sending U.N. personnel into Iraq to monitor and supervise the plan, citing security concerns.

Those personnel must be in Iraq before the plan can be implemented.

"I think there is no security problem regarding the personnel regarding any other activities," Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun told reporters after a half-hour meeting with Dr. Ghali.

"Physically, I am saying the country is secure for any personnel to come in and work and function," Mr. Hamdoun said. He refused to say whether Dr. Ghali had offered any indication when oil sales could resume. But Mr. Hamdoun also said the Iraqi government was not yet in full control of the Kurdish areas of the north.

Under a plan Iraq accepted May 20, Baghdad would be allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil for an initial 180-day period to buy food and medicine for its people.

Iraq has been barred from selling oil under international sanctions imposed after it invaded Kuwait in 1990. The Security Council refused to lift the sanctions until it is convinced Iraq has complied with orders to dismantle illegal weapons programmes.

European countries anxious to resume trade with Iraq have urged the oil-for-food plan be implemented as soon as possible.

Although Mr. Ghali is authorised to decide when to authorise sales, he can do so only after the U.N. committee overseeing sanctions against Iraq signs off on all aspects of the programme.

Last week, the United States blocked committee approval of a formula for setting the price of Iraqi oil by saying it needed more time to study details.

Izetbegovic triumphant

(Continued from page 1)

Democratic Party was on 66.33 per cent of votes.

The opposition Alliance for Peace and Progress was on 13.66 per cent, the Democratic Patriotic Bloc 2.12 per cent, the Serb radical Party of Serbian

extremist Vojislav Seselj 7.46 per cent, and the Serb Unity Party of extremist paramilitary Zeljko "Arkan" Raznjatovic had

0.84 percent.

The Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA) was on 5.5 per cent.

In the vote for the RS legislature, the national assembly of the Republika Srpska, early results gave the SDS 63.11 per cent of the vote, against 13.11 per cent for the Alliance for Peace and Progress, 8.2 per cent for the Serb Radical Party and 5.02 per cent for the SDA.

Gaza merchants dump goods in protest at Israeli closure

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Dozens of Palestinian merchants and factory owners demonstrated in Gaza City Wednesday against Israeli restrictions on travel and export of their goods into Israel.

Tailors stood alongside cannery owners and other businessmen in a protest involving about 100 people outside the industry ministry of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"No peace under siege and starvation," read one banner waved by the crowd as merchants dumped about 40 cases of canned food on the ground in a symbolic protest against their inability to market their goods in Israel.

Nasser Sarraj, director general of the industry ministry, complained that despite declarations by Israel that it was easing the military closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and West Bank six months ago, the Jewish state had

only authorised a small minority of businessmen to operate in the country.

"Israel has only given permits to only 100 merchants to enter and trade with Israel out of 3,000 who are registered and have applied for them," Mr. Sarraj told AFP.

"This protest is a message for the international community, which should take responsibility for pressuring Israel to lift the siege," Mr. Sarraj said.

Israel barred most Palestinians from the territories from entering the Jewish state following a wave of suicide bombings against Israeli civilians by Palestinian militants.

The PNA has estimated that the closure has cost the self-rule territories about \$6 million a day in lost wages and other revenues.

In recent months Israel has gradually increased the number of Palestinian day

labourers authorised to work in Israel to 50,000, but there has been no similar increase in permits for businessmen and traders.

Israeli 'apartheid'

Human rights militants called on Tuesday for Palestinians with permits to work in Israel, to be allowed to use a new road linking Jerusalem and the southern West Bank, saying barring them amounted to "apartheid."

The Israeli group Betsalem sent a protest to the Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordehai asking him to open the road which was built mainly for the benefit of Jewish settlers.

The Palestinian group LAWE, which defends human rights and the environment, denounced "the Israeli policy of apartheid" against the Palestinians on the West Bank.



شركة العرب للتأمين على الحياة والحوادث
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO. HAS JOB VACANCIES WITHIN THE MARKETING DIVISION (LIFE, NON-LIFE & CREDIT) FOR MALES & FEMALES.

IF YOU ARE SELF MOTIVATED AND OF DYNAMIC PERSONALITY, YOU ARE CALLED-ON TO APPLY, IN PERSON, AT THE COMPANY'S HEAD OFFICE, CHIEF MANAGER BUILDING, 100, AL-BAYT STREET.

AN ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE (SALARY PLUS COMMISSION AND OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS) PLUS EXTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM ARE OFFERED.

Israel opens door wider for Jordanian exports to Palestinians

By a Jordan Times,
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israel will increase the quotas on the list of goods the Palestinians are allowed to import from Jordan, Egypt and other countries without being subject to Israeli standards, specifications and customs, according to Shaul Sasson, the commercial attaché at the Israeli embassy in Amman.

According to Mr. Sasson, the quantities will be increased by two and a half times their current quotas. The official announcement

of the decision was made earlier this week following a meeting between Israeli Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Palestinian Minister of Trade Maher Masri.

The increase in quotas includes cement, one of Jordan's first and main exports to the Palestinian autonomous territories. Jordan Cement Factories Co. was contracted by the Palestinian National Authority earlier this year to export 400,000 tonnes of cement, although only 150,000 tonnes could be imported under Palestinian standards, specifications

and customs jurisdiction according to the original quotas list. The new quota for cement has been set at 400,000 tonnes, said Mr. Sasson.

The decision constitutes an adherence to the economic agreement signed between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel in Paris 1994, which stipulated three lists of goods that the Palestinians would be allowed to import from other countries, including neighbouring Arab states. The agreement also stated that upon the expansion of Palestinian

self-rule to West Bank areas, the quantities of goods would be accordingly expanded.

Although Palestinian autonomy spread to the West Bank in late 1995, Israel refused to further expand the lists — a source of substantial complaint from Jordanian exporters eager to trade with the Palestinians. According to Mr. Sasson, Israel delayed implementing the remainder of the agreement when a series of terrorist attacks erupted inside Israel.

At the time the Paris agreement was signed, Jordanian officials criticised

the agreement saying that the lists, known as A, B and C, were discriminatory both in terms of the types of goods, as well as the quantities of goods, Jordan would be allowed to export to the self-rule areas, and accused Israel of trying to continue its dominance of the Palestinian market and perpetuating the Palestinians' economic dependence on Israel.

Officials and exporters have expressed growing frustration in recent months with Israel's refusal to implement the agreement,

and have complained that the economic agreement between Palestinian National Authority and Israel has made it difficult for Jordan to fully implement its own trade agreement with the Palestinians.

Last week, Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb and Mr. Masri agreed to call for a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli ministerial meeting to discuss amending the Palestinian-Israeli trade agreement.

Jordanian officials Wednesday said they could not give an official reaction to the Israeli decision to

implement the agreement because they had not yet been officially informed. However, one government official said, "we don't know the complete details yet, but obviously this will have a significant affect for Jordan."

The quotas were to be one of the issues addressed next week at a joint Jordanian-Israeli economic committee meeting to discuss trade issues. The committee was stipulated by a trade accord signed between Jordan and Israel in January, and Jordanian officials are hoping that the meeting will add-

ress a number of grievances expressed by Jordanian exporters, who claim that Israeli policies are severely hindering Jordan's ability to export to that country as well as the Palestinian areas.

Along with the quotas, Jordanian officials have said that they will express their frustration with the back-to-back system of transport of goods which exporters say is time-consuming and costly, and which makes Jordanian products less competitive.

UNCTAD says deflation poses danger to world economic growth

GENEVA (AFP) — Deflation poses a risk to globalisation and growth of the world economy, still stagnating after one of the deepest recessions in the post-war era, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) warned Thursday.

"With ever more integrated financial markets, the risk of deflation is real if monetary policy in developed countries continues to focus solely on combating inflation while governments are mainly concerned with cutting the budget," the organisation said in its annual report.

Deflation is usually defined as falling prices accompanied by declining economic activity and rising unemployment.

UNCTAD forecast that world economic growth this year will not exceed 1995's rate of 2.4 per cent, compared with 2.8 per cent in 1994, despite continued buoyancy of world trade — up eight per cent last year.

The growth rates disappointed official expectations that the world economy was entering "a new era of sustained market-driven growth" exceeding three per cent a year, the report said, but added:

"The outlook for developing countries is again brighter than for the developed world."

UNCTAD said that in the industrialised world, the "deflationary gap" widened further last year, with unemployment climbing by one third since 1990 to reach some 34 million by mid-1996 — a level reminiscent of the years between the two world wars.

While unemployed people in the rich northern countries would bear the brunt of any slowdown, there could also be serious ramifications for developing countries if the advanced nations react by boosting protectionism.

UNCTAD described the United States as the only "star performer" among major economies with growth seen rising to 2.2 per cent this year while inflation remains under control and three million jobs have been created in two years.

But it said the commitment of most European Union members to meet the requirements for a single European currency while fostering growth and employment presents a "daunting challenge" amid high real interest

rates. "There is scope for further monetary relaxation in pursuit of the twin goals of convergence and growth," it said.

Although Japan was struggling with rising unemployment, fiscal expansion would boost growth, the report said, noting that this stimulus needed to be accompanied by structural reforms to boost domestic consumption.

Growth among industrialised countries slid to two per cent last year from 2.8 per cent in 1994. "Prospects for 1996 are for some improvement in the developing world with Latin America regaining this year some of the ground it lost. Growth in East Asia, including China, is expected to slow down but will still be well above that of the rest of the world," the report said.

In the transition economies of central and eastern Europe, UNCTAD said 1996 "may well be a turning point" although growth is forecast at 0.3 per cent. However, in the light of Mexico's financial woes, the organisation warned against "misplaced enthu-

siasm" for massive capital inflows to finance increasing external deficits.

Asian regional growth was a rapid 6.3 per cent in 1995 but UNCTAD said the outlook "is not all rosy," pointing to faltering export growth and

greater balance of payments deficits in several countries.

China, however, is expected to post expansion of nine per cent from 10 per cent in 1995.

In Africa, the economy is expected to increase to 3.1 per cent in 1996 from

2.8 per cent in 1995, a year in which export earnings surged 10 per cent thanks in part to improved commodity prices.

Countries' performances were also dependent on the level of political stability.

"The region will need to

sustain faster growth for some time to restore per capita incomes to their level of 20 years ago," the report added.

In Latin America, some recovery is seen, with output set to advance to 2.4 per cent from 0.7 per cent in 1995.

"For most countries in the region, the challenge in the period ahead is to sustain rapid growth while consolidating recent significant progress in the fight against inflation and limiting external imbalances," UNCTAD said.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EGGOU
MASCK
NAYAW
SHEARE

Answer here: HE THE

Yesterday's Jumble: ARBOR AORTA TEACUP CUDGEL
Answer: A lawyer can end up with — A COURT DATE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Hazel Arnold and Mike Arington

The game is fast. Why the former ALL-STAR MADE A GOOD CONDUCTOR. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study the new practical enterprise you have started today and be sure of the benefits you are to get from it for your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Get yourself in right hands and get your appearance and health improved today and feel aced by the time evening rolls around.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan just how to make your ambitions come true, particularly in private life. Get tasks handled which can deter your progress.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get at those private matters which can give you the feeling of well-being and that living is a wonderful adventure to be savoured.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Early today get into the outside world and handle important matters well. Some favour for a bigwig can bring added benefits to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have some new plan which is fine but you need more data to work out the details of it nicely and to your satisfaction.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) An enterprise which means much to you can be improved with the aid of one who has the right information to complete this important project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can at this time discuss details with a fellow associate and reach a better accord if you are both broad-minded in your ideas.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Keep that promise you have made in a calm and precise way today, and please all concerned with its execution for the success available.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make the preparations today for the amusements ahead with close friends and loved ones and then all will work out well.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't allow an outside difficulty to disturb the equanimity at home, but plan quietly just how to solve it for everyone's benefit.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make sure that your car is in good running order and that you drive carefully today while on the highway. Recklessness could bring you much difficulty.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) First clear the slate before you take on any new career activities or make plans for the days ahead so that you need not worry about unfinished tasks.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Complete unfinished tasks and then plan a better way of operating in the days ahead. A newcomer could be of great help.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study what is best to do about some very important matter even if you have to make a dramatic change to get the best results.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Put new life into your alliance early this morning and later tonight concentrate on the more practical ones for the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) While you are completing one career activity today, look around for something more important to take its place for you to be successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be on the alert at this time for some new form of recreation now that you have put aside another kind of pleasure which you desire.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be more concerned with various things which have to be completed around the house and don't concentrate on one duty alone.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get at those unfinished letters and then take care of new ones. Later make the visits to helpful individuals you want to see.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Handle pressing responsibilities and pay financial obligations on time today, and later this evening accept an opportunity to make big money.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't harp on the past so much today and you have an opportunity to get ahead fast at this time, so seize it quickly for your prosperity.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan a new course of activity today which will be lucrative so later tonight forget something you cannot do anything about.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get prepared for extending your position in life today and show that you are an A-I citizen who is willing to assist anyone in distress.

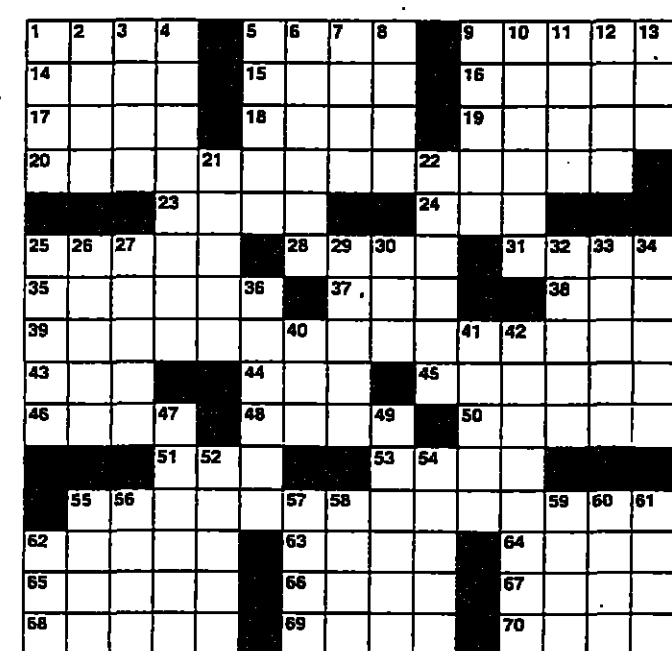
Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

JORDAN TIMES

Tel: 684311, 699634

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

- ACROSS
1 Applaud
5 Tra —
9 Impertinent
14 Same: prel.
15 Old Greek coin
16 Go in
17 Cake froster
18 Fasten oxen together, e.g.
19 Mah jongg pieces
20 Gainsay/autocrat
23 Irritate
24 That girl
25 Supplications
28 Hindu garb
31 Encourage
35 Eagles' nests
37 Prohibit
38 Expert
39 Illicit/circus parade cart
43 Chemical suffix
44 Period
46 Repose
48 Colors
50 City on the Rhine
51 Nationality suffix
53 Related
55 Oppose/revere
62 Worth
64 Humorous Sahl
64 Fragrance
65 Idolize
66 Butter substitute
67 Skirt style
68 Grew weary
69 Traffic sign
70 Short jacket



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- DOWN
1 Modish
2 Moonstruck
3 Prayer ending
4 Picture
5 True
6 Dwelling places
7 God of mischief
8 Author Waugh
9 Bristles
10 "s Dance" (Grieg)

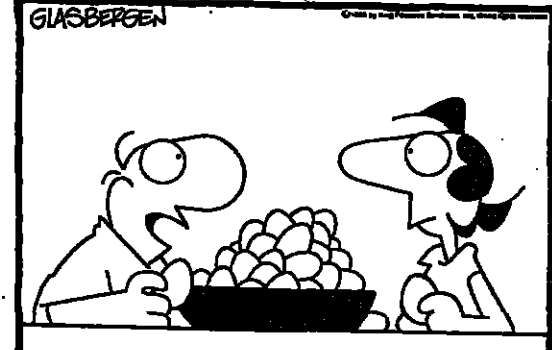
- 11 French town
12 Prophet
13 Calendar spans: abbr.
21 Stair part
22 Some portions
25 Certain horse
26 Sierra —
27 Fish-eating birds
29 Let up
30 Scummed
32 Hard roll
33 French school
34 Takes care of
36 More melancholy
40 Lad
41 Moby Dick, e.g.
42 Landing field, of a kind
47 Teacher's desire
49 Hi-fi system
52 Spirited horse
54 At the pinnacle
55 Moslem judge

MESAS RAFT AHAB
ALEPH STAIR MOIDE
RECTO TONIERIAS
SCREW SUPCOURAGE
ERIC YDIS LIET
BAT EARIS EEL
ART SITIAS OSHA
RIVETISATTENTION
SLED DEERIS NODI
DIM SNIT GPS
AKIA FOP ESSA
BOLTSDOWNSUPPER
YALE ELITE KIOWA
SLIT SARA EERED
SANE TRET SEERS

- 56 Swan genus
57 Biblical prophet
58 Electrical unit
59 Mine entrance
60 — avail (useless)
61 Emerald Isle
62 Cauldron

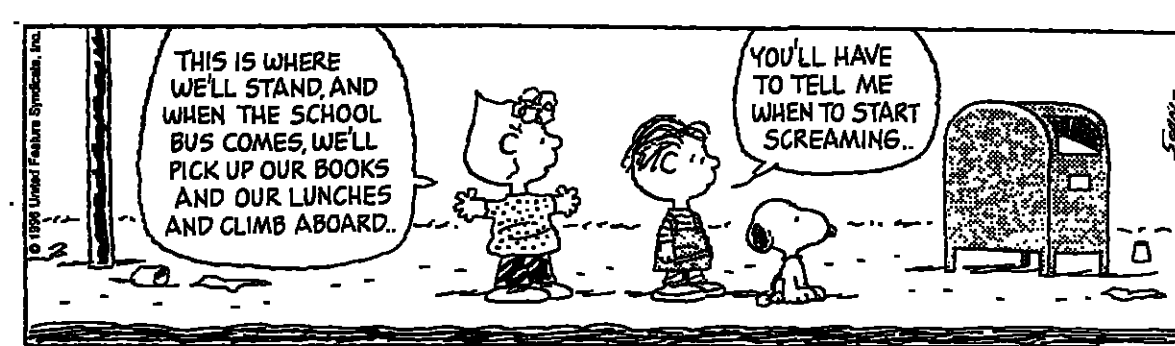
THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

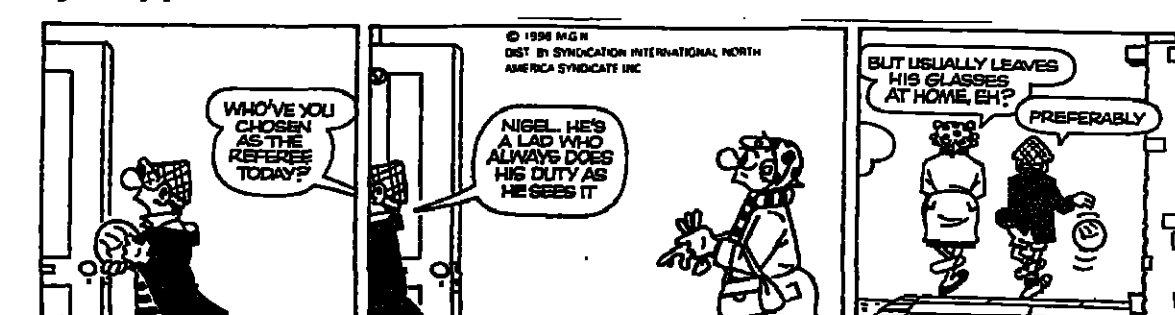


"Whoever can eat the most hard-boiled eggs in ten minutes wins control of the TV remote control tonight! Ready?"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Developing nations say global markets aid corruption

CAMBRIDGE, England (R) — The globalisation of markets and large-scale privatisation may have boosted local economies but they have also offered unprecedented opportunities for crime and corruption in developing countries.

Lawyers and enforcement officials attending the 14th annual Cambridge International Symposium

on economic crime have admitted that "need and greed" had inspired widespread and entrenched corruption in developing countries.

But they charged that efforts to counter it were blocked by collusion and indifference in more developed nations.

Olukonyinsola Ajayi, a lawyer practising in Lagos, Nigeria, said International

Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed structural adjustment programmes had promoted liberalisation and deregulation, but corrupt business practice had grown alongside.

When top officials "looted their national treasuries" and fled the country, the new governments trying to pursue them had had little help from Western governments or banks, he said.

"Developing countries have sought assistance from the West but have not had it. They soon run into banking secrecy laws which protect clients and the state cannot recover the money," he added.

B.V. Kumar, a senior revenue official in India, said the globalisation of equity markets and electronic technology had made it hard to keep track of hold-

ings as funds could be moved around the world so rapidly.

He also pointed to privatisation programmes where the transfer of state assets to the private sector had been rife with irregularities. "In India, some mutual funds find they have to subscribe to privatisation issues even if they are not thought to be profitable," he said.

David Chaikin, former senior assistant secretary in Australia's attorney-general's department agreed

Western nations tended to accuse developing countries of corruption, but ignored their own role.

The Philippine government of former president Ferdinand Marcos had been supported by the U.S. because it wanted the use of the Subic bay naval base, he said.

Despite pleas to Western banks for help, only about \$325 million of an estimated \$10 billion salted away by Marcos had been recovered after his death, Mr. Chaikin added.

In Russia and eastern Europe, the liberalisation and deregulation launched by fledgling democracies had offered unprecedented opportunities for corruption and crime.

"(Corruption) is a dangerous obstacle to the future development of these countries — resources are being misallocated and the public is getting cynical already," said Edison Heba, director in Albania's prosecutor general's office.

Poland has produced some of the most spectacu-

lar economic growth and returns to investors among all emerging markets.

But Professor Emil Plywaczewski from Warsaw University estimates there are some 290 organised criminal groups in Poland with 4,000 members, some 100 of whom are foreigners, plus 300,000 professional criminals and a million petty thieves.

Several delegates said outdated legal systems in developing countries were ill-equipped to deal with the pressures of new world markets.

There is also no consensus about what constitutes corruption — Bulgaria's penal code does not recognise it as a specific crime. "It is seen as more a crime of the system than of the individual," said academician Emilia Kandeva-Spindonova.

South African police officials noted that sanctions-busting, widely admired and even condoned domestically during the apartheid era, had "led to a blurring of the line between right and wrong" amongst the local business community.

Advocate Jan Swanepoel of South Africa's office for serious economic offences warned that crime and corruption were undermining business confidence and foreign investment and costing the country some 15.8 billion rand a year.

Some delegates also challenged the probity of international aid organisations operating in developing countries.

"The major donors are trying to force good governance on their aid clients but we believe many face battles against corruption themselves," said David Phillips, executive director of Crown Agents, a British consultancy working worldwide.

U.K.-based lawyer Arnold Rosen said international aid agencies should have anti-corruption provisions in their aid budgets.

The week-long conference was attended by over 800 delegates from 90 countries.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 18/09/1996									
PRICE	15 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	TRADE	OPEN	CLOSE
LOW	HIGH				SHARES	UP	PRICE	PRICE	CHANGE
252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	11.2	1.45	39	1140	276490	245.00	24.00
1.310	.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	0.00	0.00	58	56000	59533	1.00	1.00
2.700	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	0.00	0.00	3	2100	5154	2.20	2.20
2.350	4.250	THE ROYAL BK.	0.00	0.00	3	1000	2188	2.20	2.20
1.240	.890	JOR. GULF BANK	13.5	2.74	30	95555	430791	4.90	5.04
4.180	1.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	0.00	0.00	15	24900	17710	3.95	3.95
3.300	3.000	JOR. DEV. INV. BANK	0.00	0.00	3	620	2180	2.50	2.50
3.420	2.180	WEST. AC. BANK (BANK)	19.3	0.00	1	620	2180	2.50	2.50
1.020	.700	ARAB BANK DEV.	0.00	0.00	18	67050	21490	1.30	1.30
1.640	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	0.00	0.00	28	11000	16883	1.30	1.29
BANK SECTOR TOTALS									
2.300	2.800	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.4	5.17	2	1974	8435	2.90	2.90
2.910	0.150	JOR. FRANCH. TRUST	6.2	9.09	1	0	310	2.20	2.20
1.100	1.000	WEST. AC. TRUST	4.1	4.92	2	3300	10520	2.10	2.10
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS									
2.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC. PWR.	7.32	7.32	28	336.8	58432	1.65	1.64
2.060	4.400	ARAB TEL. CO.	0.00	0.00	6	250	1225	4.90	4.90
2.800	2.060	SHIPPING LINES	20.9	2.06	6	2100	5154	2.20	2.20
2.120	1.080	MATL. PORTFOLIO	0.00	0.00	24	14500	13028	1.26	1.23
1.150	.880	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.00	0.00	19	9400	49200	1.60	1.60
2.260	.800	JORDAN TEL. TRAD.	14.3	2.00	10	500	253	.92	.92
3.660	3.090	ARAB INTL. INV. BOD.	13.4	3.88	27	13784	44607	3.40	3.40
2.260	.950	JABAL MOKASSAB	0.00	0.00	17	12500	14373	1.18	1.27
2.240	1.700	UNION CO.	9.7	9.41	8	1350	2688	.87	.86
1.700	.820	UNION LAMB DEV.	0.00	0.00	7	3550	2471	.99	.97
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS									
3.770	1.060	JOR. CHEST. FACT.	2.97	2.97	10	2933	8442	3.30	3.37
3.550	2.710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MFG.	33.0	0.00	0	140	434	3.20	3.20
5.960	4.780	ARAB PETROLEUM CO.	17.3	3.51	10	1791	29714	5.78	5.78
10.550	4.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	5.4	0.58	6	500	490	9.30	9.32
1.890	1.280	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	61.3	0.00	4	500	890	7.30	7.30
3.750	1.480	INDUSTRIAL CHEM. MFG.	30.2	0.00	2	500	1145	7.30	7.30
8.150	6.420	JOR. MOVED. VEH.	9.1	3.32	5	4600	32661	7.30	7.30
5.010	3.100	ARAB PHARM. MFG.	20.0	5.48	12	587	5702	3.67	3.66
6.450	4.650	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	7.6	4.22	5	1930	11746	6.10	6.08
2.520	1.710	JOR. PAPER MFG.	10.0	6.97	1	450	450	2.12	1.80
2.310	1.400	RAFFIA INDUSTRIES	0.00	0.00	2	800	890	2.82	1.53
5.800	3.130	ARAB TOBACCO	0.00	0.00	111	58100	11758	3.58	3.68
1.790	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.00	0.00	1	3500	49050	.87	.86
1.500	1.060	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	0.6	8.22	9	3950	4984	1.29	1.26
1.120	.860	NATIONAL TRD.	10.2	8.70	14	4092	8297	.60	.57
1.840	1.240	INTERMED. CHEM.	0.00	0.00	10	710	2365	2.10	1.15
4.590	3.280	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	71.3	0.00	10	6950	18018	2.46	2.46
2.130	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	27.8	0.00	8	2380	3416	.46	.47
1.280	.800	UNIV. MED. CHEM.	5.2	12.8	8	1500	1577	1.18	1.18
2.100	1.140	JOR. INTL. RESOURCES	23.5	0.00	68	64822	96375	1.30	1.23
2.460	.950	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	27.2	0.00	23	12607	11981	.70	1.00
1.700	.700	EL. & TEL. REPAIR WORK	0.00	0.00	16	27835	73307	.80	1.99
1.490	1.090	ISRAELI TOBACCO	2.3	0.00	10	11490	13326	1.14	1.14
2.120	1.190	UNION CO. & VED.	28.1	0.00	6	3000	3420	2.17	2.17
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
34.000	114.000	INDEX	-1.02	3.15	770282	826428			
GRAND TOTAL									
34.000	114.000	INDEX	-1.02	3.15	770282	826428			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 18/09/1996									
1.800	.610	FOR. TRADE FNC.	27.3	0.00	20	13450	5893	.61	.60
950	.40	REC. ORDER. SERVICES	0.00	0.00	68	89285	33576	.56	.57
760	.700	CHICO INV. CO.	74.6	0.00	28	15000	22560	.54	.54
1.150	.930	ARAB FID. INVEST.	0.00	0.00	23	10880	6046	.66	.66
1.640	.340	JOR. TEL. MFG. & TRD.	0.00	0.00	7	950	923	.47	.48
.930	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	0.00	0.00	7	14550	9129	.54	.57
1.760	1.140	MATL. CHEMIST	0.00	0.00	5	2050	2991	.45	.46
1.780	.780	ARAB INTL. TRD.	0.00	0.00	1	100	100	.54	.57
1.100	.520	MATL. TRADING	0.00	0.00	1	1000	550	.52	.53
1.120	.750	MATL. TRADING	0.00	0.00	19	21800	12883	.59	.58
.840	.430	ARAB ELECT. IND.	0.00	0.00	12	20000	10000	.44	.45
.890	.430	ARAB ELECT. IND.	0.00	0.00	3	1500	1438	.66	.67
1.640	1.200	UNION TOBACCO 751	2	0.00	7	1188	2638	1.18	1.18
.680	.540	RAZI PHARM. 651	2	0.00	4	1950	568	.61	.62
.650	.400	UNION TOBACCO 751	2	0.00	38	60250	32827	.84	.84
1.560	.770	UNION. CHEMIST	34.7	0.00	19	6213	5285	.81	.81
.900	.620	MATL. TRADING	0.00	0.00	1	100	81	.61	.62
1.500	.530	REC. ORDER. SERVICES	8.8	0.00	19	19550	14716	.75	.75
GRAND TOTAL									
34.000	114.000	INDEX	-1.02	3.15	770282	826428			

A review of news from the Arabic press

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5000	0.6409	1.2410	109.08	1.3716	1523.80	1.8928	5.1410
DE Mark	0.6627	1.0000	0.4244	0.8234	72.28	0.9088	1009.47	1.1220	3.4073
GB Sterling	1.5602	1.5602	1.0000	1.9365	169.94	2.1400	2374.99	2.6387	8.0138
CH Franc	0.8058	1.2154	0.5159	1.0000	87.85	1.1042	1225.35	138.21	4.1409
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3819	0.5868	1.1370	1.0000	1.2565	13.96	154.98	4.7102
CA Dollar	0.7291	1.1035	0.4896	0.9052	1.28	1.0000	1115.32	1.2368	3.7681
IT Lira	0.0007	0.5895	0.4200	0.8814	1399.19	0.8993	1.0000	11.09	3.3712
NL Guilder	0.5907	88.08	0.3784	73.33	64.42	0.8103	900.11	1.0000	3.0374
FR Franc	0.1945	0.2935	0.1248	24.1255	21.19	0.2667	32.90	32.9000	1.0000

Energy		Oil	Gas
Brent	22.60	22.15	
W. Texas	22.60	22.15	
Bony	22.60	22.15	
Dubai	19.80	19.41	
UL Gas	207.00	210.00	

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4024	0.17091	0.33122
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41096	0.17453	0.33825
KW Dinar	3.3378	5.03778	2.1395	4.14594
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.0032	1.70039	3.29409
CY Pound	2.145	3.2351	1.3737	2.6619

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	383.1	383.6
Silver (oz's)	5.08	5.1
Platinum (oz's)	390.4	391.4
AL (3 Months)	1428	1429
CU (3 Months)	1910	1911
Zinc (3 Months)	1036	1036
Lead (3 Months)	785	787
NI (3 Months)	7435	7445

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Period	1 -	3 -	6 -	9 -	1 -	
Ctry	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year	
USD	5.46	5.59	5.65	5.78	5.90	
GBP	5.72	5.73	5.78	5.73	5.99	
JPY	0.40	0.43	0.50	0.45	0.65	
DEM	2.93	2.93	2.93	3.12	3.19	
FRF	3.50	3.57	3.67	3.71	3.79	
CHF	1.50	1.84	1.93	1.87	2.03	
ITL	8.43	8.41	8.28	8.17	8.08	

Nomo throws no-hitter as Dodgers beat Rockies 9-0; Giants win

DENVER (R) — Hideo Nomo threw the 20th no-hitter in Dodger history — and the first ever in hitter-friendly Coors Field — as Los Angeles beat the Colorado Rockies 9-0 Tuesday, padding their Western Division lead.

Nomo (16-10), who walked four, retired the final 11 batters en route to the Major League's third no-hitter of the season, joining the Yankees' Dwight Gooden and Florida's Al Leiter.

Nomo, the first Japanese pitcher to hurl a no-hitter, retired all three batters in the ninth. The hard-throwing right-hander induced Eric Young to ground out to second for the first out and then got Quinton McCracken on a first-pitch grounder to the same spot.

Nomo struck out Ellis Burks, his eighth strikeout of the game, for the final out.

Nomo, who won his fourth consecutive decision, allowed just two hits over eight innings five days ago against the Cardinals.

Nomo improved to 3-0 lifetime in Colorado.

"I only concentrated on (the no-hitter) in the ninth inning," said Nomo through an interpreter.

The Dodgers won their fourth straight, increasing their National League West lead to 1 1/2 games over San Diego.

Ramon Martinez, the last foreign-born player to throw a no-hitter, was also the last Dodger to throw a no-hitter.

Martinez turned the trick on July 14, 1995 against Florida.

The Rockies were also no-hit on May 11 by Leiter. The 1977 Angels were the last major-league team to be no-hit twice.

The 1971 Reds were the last NL team to be held without a hit twice in the same season.

In Atlanta, John Smoltz picked up his 22nd win and Ryan Klesko had a bases-loaded double to cap a four-run fifth inning as the Braves held on for a 5-4 win over the fading Houston Astros.

Smoltz (22-8) allowed three runs and eight hits over eight innings, walked one and struck out seven, boosting his National League-leading total to 262.

His 262 strikeouts tie Phil Niekro's 1977 total for the most by a Braves pitcher since the team moved from Milwaukee.

His wins match Tom Glavine's 1991 total as the most by a Braves since Tony Cloninger went 24-11 in 1965.

Mark Wohlers worked a



Los Angeles Dodgers' pitcher Hideo Nomo tips his cap to the fans at Coors Field after throwing a no-hitter against the Colorado Rockies. Nomo struck out eight in the Dodgers' 9-0 win (Reuters photo)

shaky ninth for his 36th save, getting Craig Biggio to ground into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded.

The Astros have lost four straight and seven of nine to fall 3 1/2 games behind first-place St. Louis in the National League Central Division. Houston is 0-8 on the road this month.

The world series champion Braves remained six games in front of second-place Montreal in the Eastern Division. Atlanta has eight games remaining with Montreal.

In San Francisco, Barry Bonds' two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth snapped a tie and capped a six-run comeback as the Giants ended a six-game losing streak with a 9-7 defeat of the San Diego Padres.

Bonds, who had three hits including a two-run double in the fourth inning, passed his father Bobby and moved into sole possession of 54th place on baseball's all-time home run list.

Giants reliever Jim Poole (2-1) allowed one hit over 1 2/3 innings for the victory. Rod Beck retired Scott Livingstone, representing the tying run, in the ninth for his 34th save.

In Montreal, Jeff Fassero tossed a six-hitter and Moses Alou homered and drove in three runs as the Expos defeated the New York Mets 7-1.

In Philadelphia, Pat Rapp won again against his favorite rival team and Devon White and Kurt Abbott each hit fourth-inning homers in the Florida Marlins' 11-5 victory over the Phillies.

Rapp (7-16) pitched 6 1/3 innings and allowed three runs and eight hits. The right-hander walked two and struck out five as he improved to 3-1 with a 4.50 ERA against the Phillies this season.

Against the rest of the league, Rapp is 4-15 with a 5.32 ERA.

In Pittsburgh, Francisco Cordova scattered eight hits over seven innings and John Wehner had three hits and scored three times as the Pirates defeated the Cincinnati Reds 5-3 for their season-high sixth straight win.

Cordova (3-7) allowed two runs — one earned — while striking out two without a walk.

John Smiley (13-14) lost his fourth consecutive start. The left-hander has allowed 16 runs and 29 hits during the slide.

The Cleveland Indians clinched their second straight American League, Central Division title Tuesday as Kevin Seitzer blasted a grand slam and Manny Ramirez had four hits and three RBI in a 9-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Cleveland (91-59), which has won eight of its last nine games, became the first major-league team to qualify for the post-season. It is the first time in the 96-year history of the club it has reached the playoffs in consecutive seasons.

In New York, the scheduled challenge by the second-place Baltimore Orioles of the AL East-leading Yankees was postponed due to rain. The game was rescheduled as part of a doubleheader Thursday.

In Detroit, Jose Canseco, just activated off the disabled list, drew a bases-loaded walk in the seventh to lift the Boston Red Sox to a 4-2 victory over the

Tigers, who absorbed their 100th loss of the season. Boston is 5 1/2 games behind Baltimore in the wild-card race.

Detroit second baseman Mark Lewis left the game in the third inning after being hit in the head with a pitch.

In Seattle, Terry Mulholland allowed two runs over 6 1/3 innings and Dave Hollins had a two-run single in a four-run sixth inning as the Mariners won their sixth straight, 5-2 over the Texas Rangers.

Mulholland (5-2) won for the fourth time in his last five starts, allowing four hits and no walks with three strikeouts.

The Mariners, who have won eight of 11 meetings with Texas this season, pulled within four games of the AL West-leading Rangers and three games of Baltimore for the wild-card spot.

In Kansas City, Chris Haney allowed two runs over seven innings and Chris Stynes' RBI ground-out in the fifth inning snapped a tie as the Royals defeated the Minnesota Twins 4-2 for their fourth straight victory.

Haney (10-14) stopped a personal four-game losing skid and a six-start winless streak. He allowed eight hits, did not walk a batter and struck out five.

In Milwaukee, Ben McDonald scattered three hits over eight innings and Fernando Vina had a two-run triple as the Brewers blanked the Toronto Blue Jays 4-0, snapping a four-game home losing streak.

At California, emergency starter Ariel Prieto scattered seven hits over 6 2/3 innings and Terry Steinbach and Brian Leshar hit back-to-back homers as the Oakland Athletics defeated the Angels 5-1.

Oakland won its second straight game despite being held to just five hits.

Platini wants greener grass for World Cup

FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE (R) — Michel Platini has embarked on a mission to make French grass greener before the World Cup kicks off in 1998.

The former French captain and coach, now president of the organising committees, took journalists to glasshouses in a small village south of Paris Tuesday to show them the grass earmarked for the Stade de France, venue for the World Cup opening match and its final.

"The grass is the image 27 billion television viewers will keep in mind. I'm very fond of lawns," said Platini, who was accompanied by co-president Fernand Sastre.

"I remember Atletico Madrid's pitch at the 1982 World Cup in Spain. I did not play against Austria that day, but I walked on the grass barefoot because it was so beautiful."

A total of 12,500 square metres of grass will be used for a total amount of 100 million francs (\$20 million), roughly 0.5 per cent of the entire stadium budget.

The grass to be used has been chosen by a panel of specialists. An English brand noted for its robustness has been picked along with a French brand known for its hard-wearing qualities.

It will have to bear nine matches in a month during the World Cup before being trampled by rugby union players and concert goers.

"We give special care to the grass for the stadium. I go and see it every morning to make sure it's all right," said Gardener Jean-Pierre Fiore, who confessed to being a baseball fan with no interest in soccer.

Platini, meanwhile, said he supported FIFA's suggestion to remove fencing inside stadiums but added the decision belonged to the French government.

Platini said he agreed with comments made last week by FIFA's General Secretary Sepp Blatter, who is against fencing-in spectators.

"That's what everybody wishes for but it takes a lot of work. It worked fine during Euro 96 in England but the English have experienced the system for four years."

Japan draw easy group in Asian Nations Cup

DUBAI (AFP) — Asian champions Japan drew a relatively easy group with China, Uzbekistan and Syria in the Asian Nations Cup final round draw.

But hosts United Arab Emirates face their old Gulf rivals Kuwait and two-time champions Korea in possibly the tightest group tournament.

The Asian Nations Cup, organised by the 44-member Asian Football Confederation and featuring the region's top 12 nation teams, kicks off December 4 to 21 and is being staged in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al Ain.

Japan, victors in 1992 over Saudi Arabia, were seeded into the Al Ain-hosted group C where they face China, Syria and Uzbekistan, the latter two teams only just squeezing through to the final round.

UAE, based in Abu Dhabi, will face Korea, Kuwait and the Italian-trained Indonesian side in a group that the Koreans, World Cup finalists in the last three events, should win.

Saudi Arabia head the Dubai-based Group B which will also include three-time Asian Cup Champions Iran, Tiger Cup Winners Thailand and Iraq, the last team to qualify for the championship with wins over Pakistan and Oman last month.

The top two teams in each group qualify for the quarter-finals along with the two best third-placed sides.

As usual in Asian football, the tournament promises any number of interesting political combinations especially in group B which includes three countries, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq.

at various stages of political and military confrontation. Should Iraq and Group A side Kuwait qualify, there is a strong probability both sides could meet as early as the quarterfinals in what would be a keenly-contested tie.

Draw

Group A (Abu Dhabi):
1. United Arab Emirates
2. Indonesia
3. Kuwait
4. South Korea

Group B (Dubai):
1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iran
3. Iraq
4. Thailand

Group C (Al Ain):
1. Japan
2. China
3. Uzbekistan
4. Syria

Edberg may miss final Davis Cup

PARIS (AFP) — Stefan Edberg's dream of bringing down the curtain on his glorious Davis Cup career in style by leading Sweden to their 10th final hangs in the balance as he battles with an achilles tendon injury.

Edberg, ranked 18 in the world and who retires at the end of the year, proved his form by reaching the last eight at the U.S. Open and he had been all set to lead his country against Czech Republic in Prague this weekend.

But the veteran of 67 Davis Cup encounters faces a battle against the clock to shrug off his achilles problem and a decision on his fitness will be made Wednesday evening, said Nicklas Smedman of the Swedish Tennis Federation.

The Swedes reached the semis for the fifth year in a row by hammering India 5-0 in Calcutta and, on paper at least, their quartet of Edberg, Bjorkman, Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti should see off the Czechs, whose challenge is led by Bohdan Ulihrach and Daniel Vacek, ranked 11th in doubles.

But even with three-time winner Edberg on board, they will not underestimate their opponents, who knocked out defending champions United States in the quarters to reach this stage for the first time in a decade.

Despite Sweden having lifted four Davis Cups to the Czechs' one — an Ivan Lendl-inspired victory back in 1980 for Czechoslovakia — the two nations' Davis Cup record is actually all square at six wins apiece.

The "unlucky" 13th will be played indoors at Prague's sport hall HC Sparta.

Should Edberg fail to appear, Magnus Larsson will take his place.

Smedman told AFP, adding Edberg had complained his injury remained painful.

Either way, Bjorkman and Kulti will contest the doubles.

The other semifinal pits France against Italy on carpet at Nantes' Palais des Sports de Beaulieu.

Italy last captured the title 20 years ago but Adriano Panatta, their star of that era, is confident that the superb 4-1 semi-final win over South Africa was not just a flash in the pan.

The Italian quartet is Renzo Furlan, Andrea Gaudenzi, Diego Nargiso and Stefano Pescosolido.

France include veteran Guy Forget, who has played 45 ties to date, alongside Cedric Pioline, Arnaud Boesoch and Guillaume Raoux as the French prepare for their first semi since 1991, the year they last won the trophy by beating the USA in a thrilling final.

Italy lead France 5-4 after nine Davis Cup meetings.

In the World Group qualifying round, Australia will have to keep their nerve before a raucous and hugely patriotic crowd as they take on Croatia in Split.

The Aussie camp said Monday it was "quietly confident," particularly after the rain of recent days which threatens to leave the courts playing very heavy, slowing the blistering serve of Croatian number one Goran Ivanisevic.

One cloud on the Australian horizon is the absence of doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge, who has had surgery to clear up an unspecified medical complaint.

Patrick Rafter, ranked 52 in the world, will fill the breach and practised Monday with Mark Woodforde.

Croatia are also not without injury problems, with

Ivanisevic nursing a sore shoulder and refraining from exercising his booming serve in practice.

In the singles, the Australians are hoping for great things from Mark Philippoussis, said to have been "sending down scud missiles" in serving practice since arriving in Split.

Elsewhere in the World Group qualifiers, Russia will pin their hopes on the form of world number five and French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov as they take on Hungary in Moscow.

New Zealand have a tough assignment in the Netherlands, who can call on two top 30 players in Richard Krajicek and Jan Sijgerink.

Roger Steven is New Zealand's top-ranked competitor at 80 in the world.

Austria can call on world number three Thomas Muster to face Brazil in Sao Paulo, while Spain, with world number 15 Alberto Costa fresh from his win in Bournemouth, look too strong for Denmark in Tarragona.

Switzerland, led by former Olympic champion Marc Rosset, should similarly see off Morocco without undue trouble.

The winners of the eight World Group qualifying ties will compete in the 16-strong World Group next year.

Among the also-rans, Britain will hope that burgeoning star Tim Henman will help them to a win over Egypt at Wimbledon in their Euro/African zone Group II clash.

In the Euro African zone, Zimbabwe play Finland at Harare.

Other action sees Taiwan host Indonesia in an Asia-Oceania zone I play-off, while in Group II, Thailand must travel to Uzbekistan.

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7th Arabian Horse Festival

Qataris take centre stage on 1st day of horse show

By Mune'm Fakhoury
and Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Qatari horsebreeders took centre stage Wednesday as the 7th Arabian Horse Festival entered its second day with the start of the horse show.

Wednesday's events included seven categories for colts and fillies born 1993-1996. The top two in each category qualified for the championship.

Ansata Marha, owned by Qatar's Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani, won the junior female championship followed by Alia Al Shaqab of Qatar's Shaqab stud.

The junior male championship went to Leif Al Naser owned by Qatar's Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani. Second place went to Ala' Al Din of Ja'far stud.

The festival's opening ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Princesses Alia and Zein, Princes Ali and Asem Ben Nayef and head of the Qatari delegation Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser Al Thani.

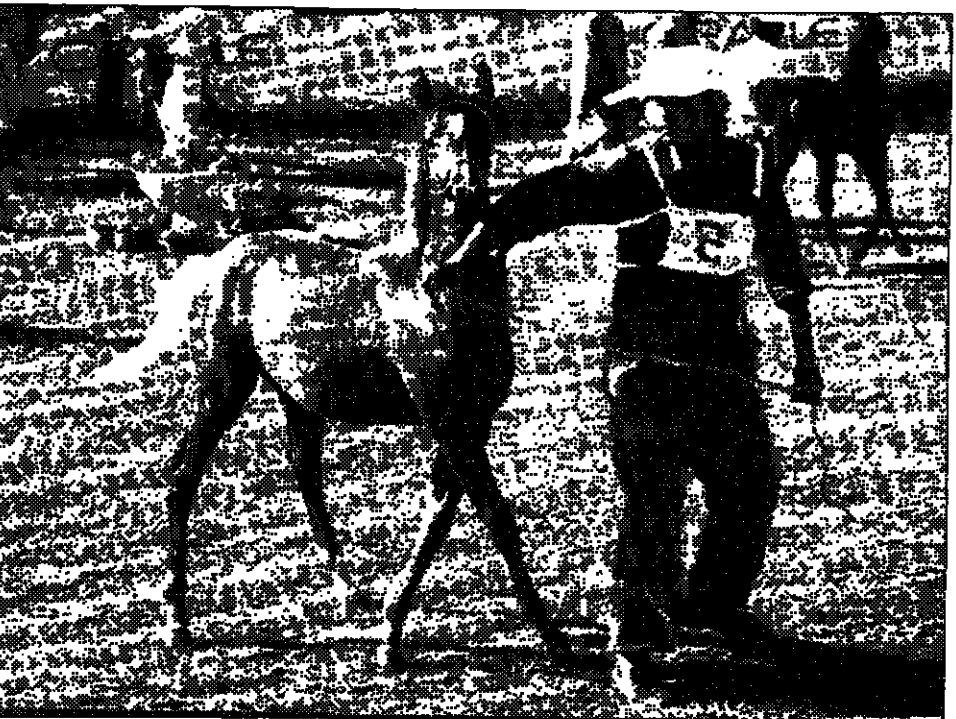
Royal mounted police and Special Forces parachuters took part in the opening of the festival which began Tuesday when sixteen pure-bred Arabian horses competed in the horse races.

Jordan's biggest annual equestrian event, celebrating its seventh year, this season enjoys sponsorship by Oracle, a leader in the world's information management software technology.

Twenty seven Jordanian horse breeders are taking part in the event representing over 70 per



Members of the Royal Family, their families and guests Wednesday watch the opening ceremony of the 7th Arabian Horse Show (Photo by Rana Hussein)



Shahirah of the Royal Jordanian stud takes part in the Wednesday's Class 1 of the Arabian Horse Show (Photo by Rana Hussein)

cent of 140 entries from Kuwait, Qatar, Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. The events will enable participating horses to qualify for international championships.

The Arabian Horse Festival will conclude with the Middle East Championships on Friday. A judges course will be held Saturday and Sunday.

Judges for the horse festival are Brian Blake (Australia), Robbie Den Hartog (Holland), Ignacy Jaworowsky (Poland), Brigitta Foch (Sweden), Izzedine Sudrati (Morocco), and Peter Upton (U.K.).

Prince Asem Ben Nayef is a reserve judge.

Results in Wednesday's horse race came as follows:

Class 1 (Foals born in 1996)
Fillies

First: Bent Kamar Al Zaman — Royal Jordanian Stud.
Second: Atiat Al Rahman Royal Jordanian Stud.

Colts
First: Laheeb — Arabians
Second: Hameed — Royal Jordanian Stud.

Class 2 (Yearling fillies born in 1995)
First: Alia Al Shaqab — Al Shaqab Stud
Second: Jumana — Ja'far Stud

Class 3 (Fillies born in 1994)
First: Ansata Marha — Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani
Second: The Vision HG — Ariely Arabians

Class 4 (Fillies born in 1993)
First: MB Shahiel — Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser
Second: Simeon Shaas — Talal Al Saleh Stud

Class 5 (Yearling colts born in 1995)
First: Leif Al Naser — Sheikh Nawwaf Ben Naser
Second: Mosali — Ariely Arabians

Class 6 (Colts born in 1994)
First: Ala' Al Deen — Ja'far Stud
Second: Kohl Al Ouyoun — A. M. Suweidan

Class 7 (Colts born 1993)
First: Izz Al Deen — Imran Stud
Second: Said Kheir Stud.



One of the Class 1 entries runs loose from its trainer during the show for foals born in 1996 (photo by Rana Hussein)

Thursday's Schedule

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Classes 8-13
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 Classes 14, 15 & Show Jumping
4:00 p.m. Senior Female and Male Championships
4:45 p.m. Classes 16 & 17

Friday's Schedule

10:00 a.m. Junior non-registered Arabians
10:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Middle East championships

Morocco's tennis professionals boycott Davis Cup

RABAT (AFP) — Morocco's top three professional players opted Tuesday to boycott this weekend's semifinal against Switzerland because the Moroccan Royal Tennis Federation is refusing to pay for them to appear.

Karim Alami, Younes Al Aynaoui and Hicham Arazi, who are all ranked in the ATP top 100, demanded \$25,000, \$20,000 and \$15,000 to wear the national colours — whatever the result against Switzerland.

The semifinal, from September 20-22, will instead be contested by young and relatively unknown Morocco players.

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.....
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Military exercises conclude at Qatranah

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

QATRANEH — Jordanian and British infantry troops on Wednesday concluded two weeks of joint military exercises at Qatranah, 90 kilometres south of Amman.

About 1,000 Jordanian and British troops who were involved in the exercises codenamed "Desert King" used live mortars, anti-tank rockets, hand-grenades, land mines and other heavy weapons, said Lieutenant-General Mohammad Howeian, deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff for the Land Forces.

"The aim of the joint exercises is to boost the capabilities of the Jordanian Armed Forces and increase their combat readiness," Gen. Howeian said.

"We continue to conduct joint military exercises with the armed forces in developed nations like the United States and the United Kingdom to enable our men to learn about modern techniques in the use of modern weapons," he added.

"This particular training exercise was part of an annual programme and will be followed soon by other training exercises with troops from Arab and friendly nations," Gen. Howeian said.

"We are quite ready to take part in joint military exercises from other Arab countries especially those in which we took part to establish," he added.

"We had the opportunity to carry out training which we do not have in Cyprus for lack of space," said Lieutenant Colonel Clive Hodges, commander of the 500 troops of the British army's 1st battalion, King's Regiment, which took part in the exercises.

The British soldiers, posted at British bases in Cyprus, were able to test the effectiveness of their European-made anti-tank, wire-guided Milan rockets, Col. Hodges said.

Another one is scheduled for September 1997.

In March 1996, the two sides staged a similar drill codenamed "Golden Suns."

"Desert King" was supervised by commander of the Cyprus-based British troops, Air Vice Marshal (Major General) Peter Miller and Gen. Howeian.



A scene from the joint military exercises conducted by Britain and Jordan in the southern desert that concluded on Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Israeli concern mounts despite Syrian assurances on movements in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Despite a flurry of reassuring messages from Syria about its troop redeployments in Lebanon, indications mounted Wednesday that Israel's military is increasingly alarmed by the possibility Damascus is contemplating a limited strike against the Jewish state.

Syria said that the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had caused tension in the Middle East and could lead to war. The remarks, which appeared in Syria's official press, were the latest sign of tension between the two countries, fuelled by Syrian troop movements in Lebanon.

Fayez Al Sayegh, director-general of the official Syrian news agency SANA, said Israel's policy was aimed at "undermining the peace process and driving the region and its people to a state of tension and escalation...and maybe war."

Syria's official press described Israel's reaction to the Syrian redeployment in Lebanon as "a campaign of delusion and allegation" and urged the United States to halt "Israel's uproar which is currently taking the shape of a military threat."

Syria in recent weeks has moved up to 12,000 troops — around a third of its force in Lebanon — closer to Israel's border, some to within striking range of key Israeli positions in the Golan Heights.

The movements have caused war jitters in the Jewish state which has fought three wars with Syria.

Israel public radio reported that Israel had received messages from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad via France and the United States that the shift of Syrian troops in Lebanon was defensive in nature and posed no threat.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher gave the same message to Israel's new ambassador in Washington, Eliyahu Ben Elissar, telling him Tuesday that Syria appeared to be returning to normal activity in Lebanon, the radio said.

But Israeli media reports quoting senior military officials said that despite such calming statements, concern was growing that Syria could seek a limited conflict with Israel as a warning message to its new headline government.

Mr. Netanyahu charged on Tuesday that the Syrian troop movements were designed to pressure his right-wing government to resume peace talks with Damascus where they left off under the previous Labour administration — centred on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

Mr. Netanyahu, who has rejected this precondition for resuming negotiations, declared that Israel "will not be pressured" by such tactics, and his defiant position appeared to contribute to the sense of alarm among the military.

"It is likely that the Syrian troop movements are designed to send a political message, but this redeployment is not strictly speaking defensive," Israel Radio quoted a senior army officer as saying.

Haaretz newspaper said that Israeli intelligence had told Mr. Netanyahu that its assessment of the Syrian troop movements, including the deployment of elite special force units near the Golan, was that "the chances of a war with Syria are no longer low."

The officials stressed they did not expect a war in the short term, but that there were unsettling parallels with the situation just prior to the surprise Syrian and Egyptian attack in 1973.

At the outset of that war, units from the same Syrian army division which reportedly moved near the Golan last week seized Israeli positions on Mount Hermon, at the northern tip of the Golan Heights.

Senior intelligence experts told Haaretz there was a danger that Syria could again attempt to "snatch" an Israeli base on Mount Hermon or elsewhere on the Golan in an effort to force Israel back to the negotiating table on its terms.

Mr. Netanyahu scheduled a series of meetings on the Syrian situation, including an hour-long discussion late Tuesday with former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who earlier in the day had publicly warned the right-wing leader against taking Syria's actions too lightly.

The premier held a session of his inner security cabinet Wednesday to discuss the matter, and it was also expected to come up in a meeting with President Ezer Weizman, the radio reported.

Israel authorises 1,800 more homes for West Bank settlers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has authorised construction of 1,800 new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank in the biggest boost to settlement expansion yet by Israel's right-wing government.

The new apartments are slated for construction in the ultra-orthodox settlement of Matityahu, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) north of Jerusalem just inside the line separating the West Bank from Israel, a ministry spokeswoman said.

Approval for the new neighbourhood at Matityahu, which will house an estimated 10,000 people, came a month after Mr. Mordechai authorised the immediate construction of 900 apartments in a neighbouring settlement for ultra-orthodox families, Kiryat Sefer.

"These decisions do not concern creation of new set-

tlements but approval of existing construction projects which were approved by the previous (Labour) government and then frozen," the spokeswoman said.

But the anti-settler movement Peace Now angrily protested the latest decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to expand settlements in territories where Palestinians hope to create an independent state.

"This measure represents the biggest expansion of Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories since Netanyahu came to power," the movement said.

"The villagers regard this land as theirs... when they see the houses going up, I suppose they will not sit quietly," Peace Now defence minister Moshe Raz told army radio.

After defeating Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres in May elections, Netanyahu announced that

his government was lifting a freeze imposed by the previous government in 1992 on most building for Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Mordechai was given responsibility for examining requests from settler groups for new neighborhoods in existing settlements.

Last month he approved plans to build immediately 900 apartments in Kiryat Sefer and said another 900 units could be added once sufficient infrastructure was provided.

Settler groups say they have requested permission to build tens of thousands of new homes across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It received all the permits from the previous government and I am glad the defence minister finally approved it," Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Council of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, said.

Arafat: Refugees' rights are sacred

GAZA CITY (AP) — In a fresh challenge to Israel, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Palestinian refugees have a "sacred" right to return to homes in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and that he would never compromise on the issue.

Mr. Arafat told a conference on Palestinian refugees on Tuesday night that "the right of return for refugees is a sacred right."

In an apparent reference to Israel's headline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he added: "When I say a sacred right, I mean everyone has to know, those who listen and those who do not."

"The right is not subject to compromise under any circumstances. It is the right of Palestinian refugees and their descendants," said a resolution issued by the conference, attended by 2,000 refugees from the West Bank and Gaza.

Netanyahu spokesman David Bar-Ilan said the government would never agree to a return of Palestinian refugees to Israel. "We consider the return of the descendants of refugees from what is now Israel a mortal danger to the state of Israel," Mr. Bar-Ilan said.

However, Mr. Bar-Ilan said that the return of 1967 refugees to homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be negotiated during talks for a final settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

IAF deputy wants panel to probe torture claims

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The head of the Public Freedoms Committee in the Lower House of Parliament said Wednesday he intended to call for the setting up of a legislators' panel to investigate claims of torture of suspects detained in connection with the unrest in the south last month.

The comments by Bassam Emoush, a leading member of the opposition Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, came after government officials said the authorities were no longer holding any "security detainees" after having transferred 54 people to judicial custody pending trial.

Some of them are being held at Swaga and Jweideh prisons while others have been released on bail.

The officials also said that local and international human rights organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, had access to all detainees and the detention facilities were subject to regular visits by these organisations.

None of these organisations usually makes any comment to the press about their findings. They prefer instead to work with the government to put an end to torture in detention if they come across such cases.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher said on Monday that the concerned authorities had completed all investigations into the unrest in the south and had transferred 54 cases to the

prosecutor general's office for formal legal proceedings.

"The role of the executive authority is over in this affair," he said. "Now it is up to the judiciary to decide" and make its own judgement, he added.

The latest issue of Al Sabeel, the weekly mouthpiece of the Islamist movement in Jordan, said Issam Najjar, an activist believed close to the Palestinian Hamas movement who was released from custody early this week, was tortured under detention.

Several others freed after investigations into the riots in the south have also claimed that they were tortured during detention.

"I am very concerned about the claims of torture in Jordan," said Dr. Emoush, who represents a Zarqa constituency in the Lower House of Parliament. "This should not happen in Jordan, the Jordan of His Majesty King Hussein which takes pride as being an oasis of tolerance and a haven for human rights."

"I intend to propose the establishment of a Lower House panel to investigate the claims of torture," Dr. Emoush told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

Dr. Emoush said he and other members of the Public Freedoms Committee of the House were denied access to the detention facilities of the General Intelligence Department.

No official comment was immediately available.

Jordan not studying Israeli request for use of King Hussein Bridge — Irsheidat

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Wednesday ruled out allowing Israeli tourists to enter the Kingdom through the King Hussein Bridge and said Amman had not told Israel that it was willing to consider an Israeli request to this effect.

The denial followed reports in the Israeli press that Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti had told Israeli Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav who visited Jordan on Sept. 9 that Jordan was willing to "consider" such a request.

Tourism and Antiquities Minister Saleh Irsheidat, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, denied the reports as baseless.

"What has been published in the press is baseless," said Mr. Irsheidat, who implicitly confirmed that Mr. Katsav had raised the issue during his talks here.

At present, Jordan allows the King Hussein Bridge to be used by Palestinians, foreign tourists, diplomats, U.N. officials and Israeli tourists. All others, including non-U.N. and non-diplomat foreign residents of Jordan and the Jewish state, have to use the Sheikh Hussein Bridge in the north or the Wadi

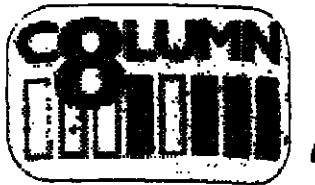
Araba crossing in the south. Foreign residents of Jordan could use the King Hussein bridge to enter the West Bank with prior permission obtained from the Ministry of Interior.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the West Bank is Palestinian territory and that the King Hussein bridge should not serve as a crossing point between Jordan and Israel.

The Palestinians are also demanding from Israel that access to the King Hussein Bridge and the Prince Mohammad Bridge from the West Bank should be under their jurisdiction.

The as-yet undetermined legal status of the West Bank — an issue to be discussed in the final status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians — is also a hurdle in Jordan's quest to modernise the King Hussein Bridge, access roads and terminal facilities.

Japan, which has in principle agreed to finance the project, has said that actual financing could come only after the issue of sovereignty and legal status of the West Bank has been formally sorted out.



Diana jets off to Greek holiday

LONDON (AFP) — The Princess of Wales flew to Greece on a private jet Wednesday for a brief holiday that was to include the funeral of a Greek man she befriended when he was in London for cancer treatment, reports said. "This is a private holiday and we are not giving any details," said Princess Diana's spokeswoman. Reporters who saw her off at the RAF base at Northolt northwest of London said Princess Diana was travelling without her sons, Princes William and Harry, who had returned to school for the autumn semester. According to her official schedule she was due in Washington Tuesday for a fundraising dinner to aid breast cancer research. A report in an Athens newspaper said Princess Diana was to attend the funeral Wednesday evening of Yannis Kaliviotis, whom she met when he came to Britain two years ago for treatment of pancreatic cancer. The report said that when Princess Diana heard of his recent death, she arranged to attend the funeral in the town of Limni on the island Euboea, near Athens.

Couple freed in Costa Rica after kidnapping

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (R) — A Dutch couple kidnapped last month in northern Costa Rica were freed Tuesday after payment of a ransom, police said. The couple, named by police as Herte Sierd Zylstra and his wife Jetsi Hendrika Coers, were freed safe and sound shortly before 6 p.m. local time (midnight GMT). Manuel Alvarado, director of Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Organisation, told reporters.

The case of the missing eyes

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Police have opened an investigation into the theft of a pair of eyes from a body awaiting autopsy, officials said Wednesday. They said the family of Alexandru Ghinescu discovered during funeral preparations that his eyes had been replaced by cotton balls and his eyelids had been sewn together. Police said the operation was done by a professional and that the stolen eyes would probably be used for a cornea transplant operation. The current Romanian law on organ transplants allows only live donors and dead eyes are said to be worth \$5,000 a piece on the black market. A parliamentary debate on changing the law has been scheduled.

Key court witness is murdered by cousins

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An Indian man was stabbed to death by 10 of his cousins a day before he was due to appear as a key court witness against three of the cousins charged with attempted murder last year, was attacked at his home in Pana Bithrola village near the Indian capital. Police officials said they had launched a hunt for the attackers who fled after the killing. The police were quoted as saying Tyagi's family was involved in a property feud with their relatives. Tyagi's younger brother had been badly beaten last year, the Indian Express reported, leading to the three cousins being charged with attempted murder.

Perry accepts blame for missteps in Saudi blast

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry emotionally accepted blame Wednesday for missteps by the Pentagon prior to the June bombing of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia.

"I have to consider my own responsibility as secretary of defence," Mr. Perry told the House National Security Committee in a hearing of representative on the June 25 attack that killed 19 U.S. airmen in Dhahran. "To the extent this tragedy resulted from a failure of leadership, I am responsible for that failure."

Mr. Perry said he accepted the criticism in a task force report on the bombing that said top Pentagon leadership had failed to make counter-terrorism a high enough priority to protect soldiers in the field — particularly those deployed in the Midwest.

"We have not focused on force protection — that is my responsibility," Mr. Perry said.

He said he still stands behind his top military commanders, General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the joint chiefs-of-staff, and General Binford Peay III, head of the U.S. Central Command, which is responsible for the Gulf region. "To whatever extent they are responsible for these mistakes, I am too," Mr. Perry said, "because I fully supported them."

Mr. Perry gave no indication that he might resign as a result

of the bombing, focusing, rather, on the steps the Pentagon now plans to take to improve protection of soldiers in the field.

Republican Floyd Spence, the committee chairman, praised the Pentagon moves, but said terrorism should have been a top priority after the November 1995 bombing in Riyadh that killed five U.S. servicemen.

The report on the bombing, by retired army General Wayne Downing, concluded that U.S. forces are so far superior to potential foes that opponents have turned to terrorism as the only viable way of challenging them. Mr. Perry agreed with that conclusion.

"I think this is a watershed," Mr. Perry said. With the U.S. forces so strong, "terrorism becomes the weapon of choice and so we can expect to see an increase in terrorism, both the quantity and quality of terrorism."

Mr. Perry said his guidance to subordinates was to "over-reach" if need be, rather than approach the terrorism problem incrementally.

A complete response, he said, will take years and cost billions of dollars. Simply moving U.S. forces from apartment complexes in Saudi cities to a remote air base east of the Pentagon \$120 million.

"That is the tip of the iceberg," Mr. Perry said.

Suspects in multi-million dinar scam denied bail

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A judge on Wednesday refused bail for three people detained in connection with an alleged multi-million dinar embezzlement case and their lawyer said he would file an appeal against the refusal at a higher court.

The three were identified as the manager of a bank in Amman and two employees of a financially-troubled state-owned industrial company.

Their names cannot be revealed under standing guidelines which say that such details cannot be published before the trial is formally launched in a court of law. But suggestions that a well-known banking figure in Jordan was detained in connection with the case were dismissed as untrue by legal sources.

The lawyer of the two employees of the state-owned company said he applied for bail for his clients on Wednesday but the prosecution recommended against the request and the judge accepted the recommendation.

"I now intend to renew the bail application at the appeals court," lawyer Ahmad Najdawi told the Jordan Times.

No comment was immediately available from the prosecutor's office.

According to Mr. Najdawi, the "actual amount" cited in the alleged embezzlement case "has not been finally determined."

"But the prosecutor says that it is a big amount," said Mr. Najdawi. First reports said the amount involved was JD 7 million, making the case one of the largest of its kind in Jordan. Details of the case remained sketchy.

According to first reports, it involves "embezzlement" through commissions by the two company employees and the bank's manager in Amman. Charges expected to be formally presented in court by prosecutor Mohammad Harashsheh include "embezzlement, forgery and the use of forged documents."

In addition to allegedly illegal transfer of funds within the country, remittances were also made to parties outside Jordan through the use of forged documents, according to initial reports.

The company involved is reported to have incurred a loss of more than JD 15 million since it launched operations in the early 80s. The allegedly embezzled funds came from the account of the company in the bank. The bank, whose executives had a role in the management of the company, is in trouble itself after reportedly incurring huge losses in investments in several industrial and commercial ventures.

Lawyer Najdawi said he expected the trial to be formally launched next month after the prosecution completes its investigations and prepares a formal case.